

The Church of God EVANGEL



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Cleveland, Tenn., Dec. 19, 1942

PHILIP GENDREAU



CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA
Where Religious Liberty, Justice
and Freedom Abound For All

Christmas Greetings to all Mankind Everywhere

The President Asks For Prayer on Two Holidays

In an unusual proclamation, President Roosevelt has called upon the American people to observe both Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day unto the Lord. Across the uncertain its entirety, is given below:

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. Across the uncertain ways of space and time our hearts echo these words, for the days are with us again when, at the gathering of the harvest, we solemnly express our dependence upon Almighty God.

"The final months of this year, now almost spent, find our Republic and the nations joined with it waging a battle on many fronts for the preservation of liberty.

"In giving thanks for the greatest harvest in the history of our nation, we who plant and reap can well resolve that in the year to come we will do all in our power to pass that milestone; for by our labors in the fields we can share some part of the sacrifice with our brothers and sons who wear the uniform of the United States.

"It is fitting that we recall now the reverent words of George Washington:

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection," and that every American in his own way lift his voice to heaven.

"I recommend that all of us bear in mind this great Psalm:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

"He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup

runneth over.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever."

"Inspired with faith and courage by these words, let us turn again to the work that confronts us in this time of national emergency; in the armed services and the Merchant Marine; in factories and offices; on farms and in the mines; on highways, railways and airways; in other places of public service to the nation; and in our homes.

"Now, therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby invite the attention of the people to the joint resolution of Congress approved December 26, 1941, which designates the fourth Thursday in November of each year as Thanksgiving Day; and I request that both Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1942, and New Year's Day, January 1, 1943, be observed in prayer, publicly and privately.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington this eleventh day of November in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and forty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-seventh."

(SEAL)

By The President:
Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State.

I think that it is wonderful that the President of our great nation should ask for prayer on Thanksgiving Day and on New Year's Day. Our prayers on Thanksgiving Day have already been offered; and now we heartily join in prayer again on the first day of the new year for our nation and for this troubled world. Truly this is the proper way to begin the new year. — J. H. Walker, General Overseer.

523 Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, Fla.
—J. H. McDowell.

If there is a Church of God near Camp Bowie, which is near Brownwood, Tex., I wish you would get in touch with my nephew, John T. Morgan, and invite him out to service. He is without the Lord but his people are members of the Church of God. His address is Pvt. John T. Morgan, Co. A, 775 T.D.N.,

NO CHRISTMAS FOR ME

"No Christmas for me," I heard someone say,

"My heart is too troubled and burdened today;

One time I had plenty of frolic and fun,
Just eating and drinking all the day long.

"But now with the war clouds hanging so low
And those that I love are having to go
To the call of their country on land, air and sea,

I'll say it again, 'No Christmas for me.'"

But, my friend, may I ask you a question today?

Have you thought why we're troubled and burdened this way?

If you'll listen I'll tell you just why it is so,
It's because this world's reaping just what it has sown.

For years now it's been too much frolic and fun,

No time for the Savior, God's well-beloved Son—

The One that He gave on that first Christmas Day

To save a lost world, but they turned Him away.

The meaning of Christmas remaineth the same;

This war has not changed it, but sin is to blame

For all the sad partings from those that we love,

For all sorrow and heartaches we see in this world.

If people would come now, forsaking their sins,

Throw open their heart's door and let Jesus come in,

He'd save them, fill them and thrill them, then

They would have a real Christmas again.

—Gracie Elwood.

Camp Bowie, Tex.—Maude Ellen Hight,
Coffeeville, Miss.

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NOTICES

Change of address of ministers and workers:

Rolen J. Dunn — Crab Orchard, Tenn.

Roland Verrico, Overseer of New York, 23 West Street, Gloversville, N. Y.

I am doing evangelistic work. Those desiring my services may contact me at

TENNESSEE TIDINGS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

Vol. 1

DECEMBER 19, 1942

No. 11

Debtors....

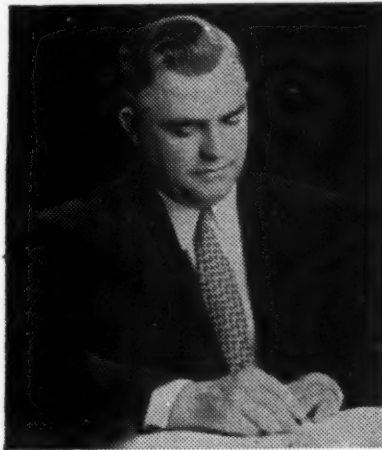
By J. D. BRIGHT, State Overseer

(Sermon preached in the 1941 Chattanooga district convention.)

May I call your attention to a text found in the sixteenth chapter of Luke, verse five. "How much owest thou unto my lord?"

We know how we go about telling how much we owe to our groceryman. We take the statements that are sent along with the order of groceries. If we trade on a thirty-day basis, or a weekly basis, at the end of the month or at the end of the week, either the wife or the husband takes those papers that are itemized: total for meat fifty cents, for beans so much; butter so much; milk so much; and then at the bottom of the list there is the total. At the end of the week, if we have three statements or four statements, we add them up and get the grand total. Whether it is five dollars, ten or fifty dollars, we decide the price we are obligated to pay that groceryman is that amount. It is his! We have lived on the groceries he has supplied us with. He has been very courteous and gracious to us, and now has come the time to pay off. We know how much we owe. It is itemized.

The preacher should keep up with obligations, too. He knows exactly how many gallons of gas has been pumped into his car, how much oil he has put in his motor, and how much the grease job has cost, etc. Of course, it is nothing but right to expect to pay off. The man that serviced that car, knows exactly how much the owner owes him, and he is within his rights to expect payment in full at the proper time. I drive on a courtesy card from two companies. I can go anywhere in this state, or in the United States, drive up to any Esso or Pan-Am Station and have the car serviced with gas, oil, or grease job. I used to have tires put on often but not so easy now. I don't have to pay when served, just sign a statement, but at the end of the month, it doesn't make a bit of difference where I have been, probably Memphis, Nashville, or back in the extreme east of the state, at the end of the month I have to face those state-



SEASON'S GREETINGS

JOY TO YOU



The most Merry Christmas, happiest and most successful New Year to you, my precious ministers and members throughout the state

ments again. They come back to me. On the duplicate statement, there is my signature. There is no doubt at all that I am obligated to that duplicate statement. There is the grand total of all the services I have received during the month. I know at once I owe that company that amount. There is no justification in arguing with that company. The statements compare when I put them together January 13, and my statement means \$5. There are no grounds for me to doubt the fact that I owe The Standard Oil Company five dollars, and then when all the statements are

put together, I may owe \$150 to \$200. I know that I owe them that.

So many times we keep a close record of how much we owe, and should know how much we owe the people we have to deal with. And yet, many times we forget to itemize the service that God has rendered to us, the benefits that God has bestowed on us, and at the end of the week or at the end of the month, we don't look to see how much we owe God in the days and weeks of that month. But, if God cared for us during the week and during the month, isn't it reasonable then that we owe it to God to check up? You will find that you are indebted to God Almighty. You are to satisfy that debt. We should check up to determine how much we owe Him. There is by far less on the credit side of our ledger than there is on the debit side. The credit comes to us, but it goes out. The debit is that which we receive. We receive by far many more times than we give God credit for.

David began to enumerate and add up the blessings of God, and he said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

My, when you begin to think of all these things, they will keep a man indebted the rest of his life. It is impossible to be debt free. People say, "I have a clear receipt now. I have lifted the mortgage. I have lifted the note. I have a clear receipt to all my furniture. It is mine now. I have a clear receipt for my automobile. I have paid off the final note." That is possible. A very fine thing to do and complimentary to anyone. But, I have never heard anyone truthfully say, "I have paid up all debts to God." We are obligated so long as we live. It will take more of our lives than we have perhaps been thinking it will take. If we live to be sixty, seventy, or eighty, it will mean that every minute will have to be applied diligently by ourselves in order to pay and meet our obligations to God.

How much do we owe? Our fellow man services us and gets paid, but on the other hand, when it comes to the blessings of God on our lives, so many times these are the blessings man cannot bestow upon us. When it comes to the healing of the body, people have spent thousands of dollars to overcome certain

(Continued on page 6)

TENNESSEE TIDINGS

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REVIVALS AT

JELICO:

Brother Luther Turner closed a successful revival with thirty-eight saved, twenty-four sanctified, and thirteen baptized with the Holy Ghost. The pastor, Brother J. A. Muncy, reports that since the revival has closed nine have been baptized in water, with others to come, and eighteen were added to the church.

SODDY:

Sister B. H. Clark, pastor, reports that a great revival is in progress and that five have already received the Holy Ghost.

SILVER POINT:

A revival is in progress there now with Sister Brumley doing the preaching.

BANCROFT:

Brother Huff, Cleveland district overseer, closed a successful revival in which nine were saved, and eight filled with the Holy Ghost.

N. CHATTANOOGA AND N. CLEVELAND:

Just a few weeks ago Brother Shelton Brock closed a very successful revival at N. Chattanooga and is now engaged in a good revival at N. Cleveland.

SALE CREEK:

Sisters Annie E. Jones and E. A. Conner are conducting a revival at Sale Creek.

DAYTON:

Brother I. H. Brabson, pastor, has just closed a reasonably successful revival. A number of ministers helped in the meeting.

Kingsport

We are getting along fine here. I have never worked with a better church. The Lord is blessing in every way. New people are attending and two were saved Sunday night. We are looking forward to greater things.—Clyde Ogle, pastor.

State Overseer's Statements

Good News

It is quite evident now that Brother Brazell and I will get enough gas to enable us to carry on our work at least on a limited scale. Perhaps our visiting will be reduced about a third but we are rejoicing over the consideration given us.

Concerning Building Projects

I know that some of you will be terribly disappointed when I state that according to the present priority ruling no one is allowed over \$200.00 and this includes material and labor of any kind and every kind for any building project, church or dwelling. I was so disturbed over the information that I had received through others that I went to Mr. Butterfield, the chairman of the War Production Board of the Chattanooga District, and received the above information from him, and, of course, he supplied me with all the information that he had in regard to the government's ruling on materials for building projects.

I am sure, however, that you will not be discouraged to the point of throwing up your hands and quitting, for you have never had a greater opportunity to raise money than now. Therefore, I suggest that you start on your building fund so that when the restrictions are lifted you will have more money to apply on your building project. Work just as hard now in raising money as you would work if you were in the building project and I am sure that when the time comes you will be able to erect your building in short order.

Plates For the Orphanage

I understand the Orphanage Committee is contemplating purchasing 30,000 10-inch dinner plates with the picture of the Boys' Home and an inset of the three sets of twins made up in a beautiful trimming of 23-karat gold, covered with five coats of enamel.

This is the proposition that the committee is making to the pastors who sell the plates: With every order for three dozen, an extra dozen will be given. In other words, if all the three dozen were sold at \$1.50 a plate, it would be \$54.00, and the local church would be given credit for \$30.00 on their Easter or state convention offering for the Orphanage, besides getting their twelve plates free, valued at \$18.00.

I am sure that I express the sentiment of all you ministers and members when I say to the Orphanage Committee, that we are ready to give them whole-hearted cooperation.

Mirrors

I have secured a supply of mirrors and if any of you pastors are interested in selling some you may order from me. You may have thirty days to pay for them.

They will cost you 5c each, plus postage on your order. Of course, your profit will be 5c on each mirror, minus postage.

The Evangel Drive

Remember, pastors, I am depending on you to help me push Tennessee to first place in our support of the Evangel. Please let me have orders from you as fast as possible.

A Risk

I notice that a number of the treasurers are sending currency along with their reports. This is a very, very easy way to lose money, and, of course, when it is lost there is hardly a possibility of recovering it; therefore, please let me encourage that all of you send your reports here by check or by money order.

Incomplete Reports

I wouldn't doubt at all but what we have the best group of treasurers in the Church of God, here in Tennessee, when it comes to a majority standpoint; but it is a fact that a few have been filling out their reports so hurriedly as to send them in very incomplete. Please let me impress upon your mind that it is absolutely necessary for you to fill out the entire blank. It is a fact that you know how everything is going there, but it may be that you are a hundred or two hundred miles from this office, and, of course, it is impossible for me to know just what changes are taking place there from one month to the other, without you state it on your report blanks. So, my dear treasurers, please take just a little more time and use a little more care and it will help your State Overseer to keep the records at the state office better.

The Lord's good blessings be upon all of you.

Lost But Found

I am sure that you will rejoice with me over the recovery of the following money orders, which were lost before last year's state convention:

\$22.65 for Lancaster Hill's state convention mission quota.

\$12.00 as a part of Wilburn Chapel's state convention mission offering.

\$46.00 as Middle Creek's and McCowan Creek's state convention mission offering.

Also, we are happy to state that we

have recovered the \$27.00 money order sent in as Sale Creek's mission quota after the state convention.

One thing sure, you are *always safe* when you *send your money by way of money orders*, for if they get lost in the mail the post office department will make them good.

Exhorters

I have noticed that several of the exhorter's license that have been returned to me for renewal were not signed by the pastor, and, of course, this means that you were not an authorized exhorter. As soon as you receive your exhorter's papers, take them to your pastor and let him sign them, and, of course, then they are of force.

Now, a word to you pastors: If an exhorter submits his certificate to you for your signature, even though my name is already on it, if you know that the person is not living up to the requirements of the Church, you will please return the license to me, explaining why.

Want To Keep Your License?

Now, I am quite sure that every minister would like to retain his standing in the ministry, but a number are delinquent with their reports. You know what the ruling of the General Assembly is about ministers being delinquent with their reports. If you don't know, get you a 1942 Minutes and read on page 150 under the heading "Reports" and you will find this statement: "Ministers who do not make reports to headquarters monthly be considered disloyal, and if they fail to comply when admonished by proper officials that their ministerial authority be revoked."

Of course, you understand that you are not only to report to headquarters but to this state office. It is every state overseer's duty to see that the state is conducted in full harmony with the rulings of the General Assembly, and, of course, you are not expecting me to ignore this responsibility of mine.

If you don't appreciate your license enough to report, my advice to you would be to send in your license.

Such a Pity

I regret very much to state that a few treasurers' reports have come in as late as the 20th and 25th. Pastors, this will certainly keep you off the Honor Roll. My advice to you would be to see that your treasurer makes the report at the proper time.

We appreciate our treasurers but it is a fact that some of them are getting indifferent and it is going to be embarrassing to the pastors if they are not very careful.

An Exhortation

I know that this national gas and tire rationing is hampering our activity as ministers, yet we must keep in mind that the purpose of the setup is to help assure the Allied Nations victory in this colossal and terrible war against the totalitarian nations, who are seeking to destroy the democratic way of life. Since this is true, I know that our government can depend on us for 100% cooperation.

Not only that, but I know that I can depend on all of you ministers adjusting yourselves to this setup in such a way that your work will continue to prosper and succeed under your indefatigable efforts.

The Precious Four Gallons

Dear members, many of you will get only four gallons of gas per week, and if you are not careful you will burn it up and not have enough left to attend your church. So please, for your soul's sake, the sake of your pastor and the church, local and general, be sure to reserve enough of this precious fuel to get you to all your services.

This is an appeal from right out of my heart and I am sure you will react to it favorably.

Stop a Minute and Order Your '42 Minutes

I am sure that I express the sentiment of our good Editor and Publisher, Brother E. C. Clark, when I state that it is unfortunate that the Publishing House just couldn't possibly get the 1942 Minutes out earlier due to the overloaded condition of the printing plant.

Due to this delay it will, of course, take cooperation on the part of all the state overseers and pastors in disposing of the Minutes, to prevent the Publishing House realizing considerable loss. Therefore, since I may not get around to your place for a while, let me request that you pastors, whom I haven't supplied, order enough Minutes from the Publishing House to supply your members at your earliest convenience.

The Pastors' Special Evangel Roll

Here is what Brother Clyde Ogle, pastor of the church at Kingsport, has to say as his response to my request that all the pastors, who are financially able, send in personal subscriptions to the Evangel, which will be sent to them weekly in a roll so that they can be given out upon visiting the hospitals and different places.

"Dear Brother Bright:

"Just a few lines in answer to your nice letter I received a few days ago. Let me say that I am glad to cooperate with you in this pastors' special Evangel roll drive. You will find enclosed a mon-

ey order in the amount of \$10.00. We are getting along fine here at Kingsport.

"Remember, anything that I can do to help the cause I am at your service.—
"Clyde Ogle, pastor at Kingsport."

L. W. W. B.

Dear Ladies Willing Workers' Band:

Greetings to you. This is my first time to write you through the paper this Assembly year. I trust that you have received your report blank and are now ready to report, if you haven't already sent your first one in.

As you remember, we will have only four reports for the year. The first should be here now. If you did not understand just when to send in the first, you may do so now and give in all that you have done since the Assembly. Be sure to give the amount of your poundings, wreaths, flowers, offerings, etc. For instance, if you gave your pastor a pounding, don't say one pounding but give the value of the pounding, (\$10.00).

Along with your work don't forget the spiritual side. Let us strive to be a blessing to our members and those with whom we associate while selling our articles that we make. Let it be our prayer, "Lord, bless me that I may be a blessing to others."

I appreciate the good reports that I have already received. You are working hard and seem to have taken on new zeal for your work. One church that I visited recently has divided all the lady members in groups of two to a group, and each group is working to see which will raise the most money. They are making candy, pies, doughnuts, cookies, and embroidery work.

Did you ever stop to think that all do not have the same talent? So if you are not a good cook, and still not good at needlecraft, try to find that which you can do. Sell for those that bake, visit and pray for those in need, give out literature that will bless hungry hearts.

Remember, if you are a lady member of the Church of God, you are a Lady Willing Worker, so do your part to help your pastor with the financial part of the church, as well as spiritual.

May the Lord bless you as you continue your good work for Him and may the coming year be one of much joy and prosperity.—Mrs. J. D. Bright, State L.W.W.B. Pres.

Townsend

Just a few lines to let you hear from Townsend and to let you know that everything is going along nicely. We are in a revival now; pray that God will give us a landslide.—W. G. Abney, pastor.

My Travelogue

J. D. BRIGHT, State Overseer

(Continued from last issue)

Oct. 23—Although I was at Sevierville time and time again last year as chairman of the Building Committee and a member of the Board of Education, I failed to find opportunity to be with the church in a service.

Our service there the 23rd was an aftermath of a local committee meeting in which plans effecting changes in the building, as well as location, were made. Let us pray that God will help us.

Brother McPherson is a new pastor in the state and he and his wife are faithful workers.

West Knoxville

Oct. 24—It was the morning service and it was made sweet and precious by one of the most spiritual Sunday School atmospheres I ever entered.

Brother G. C. Hamby is not only a good man and a minister of broad experience and remarkable success, but he has come to a membership that is wholehearted for whatever the pastor calls on them for.

Oct. 31—Burlington church building has been torn all to pieces, but a beautiful cement and cinder block building is replacing it.

The Lord bless Brother Claude Taylor, the pastor, as he moves along with this work for the opening service which will be in a short time.

Oct. 24—The rain had been falling all morning. I had rushed over from a delicious dinner at the Hambys to find that the new church building at Alcoa wasn't near full of people and I began to feel doubtful of raising very much money. But, praise the Lord, the spirit of giving got hold of the congregation and \$300.00 was contributed.

Brother Huddleston, the pastor, was not the only one to rejoice, for we were all happy.

Lenoir City

When Brother Boehmer and I parked the car and started to the church, we found brick and lumber piled all over the place. That meant that Brother Newman, the pastor, and his members were ready to go on up with the auditorium.

The church loves its pastor and was proving it by raising money to buy him a good overcoat while we were there.

Lenoir City church is pretty much like a beehive and that without drones.

JELICO DISTRICT

Rev. C. M. Taylor, District Pastor

Oct. 27—Brother C. M. Taylor covered the district with me. Our first service was Jellico. Sister B. H. Clark is pastor there this year. It looked for a while like it was going to be a difficult year, but the interest was increased until the church moved them from Lawrenceburg and a member furnished them a house and the church is standing by their pastor.

Although it was Tuesday night, with a little encouragement we raised \$32.25, which was needed very much by the church.

Oct. 28—Shipley's Grove is being pastored this year by Brother Avery Lane. Brother and Sister Lane are both good and faithful workers and I feel that success will be theirs.

Oct. 29—It was my privilege to be with the LaFollette church and I felt we had a gracious service. In that service something was done about the state mission drive, but don't tell Brother Taylor I told you.

While there plans were passed on for Sunday School basement rooms and the work will be started in a few days.

Brother Taylor is the second pastor the church has had, I think, in about fourteen years, yet the membership is delighted with him and his family.

Oct. 30—Brewstertown is fifty miles back over the mountains from LaFollette, but there are some of the most whole-hearted members up there that are found in the Church of God anywhere. If the decisions that were reached while we were there with the church materialize, I feel assured that better and brighter days are just ahead for Brewstertown.

Caryville

On our way to Brewstertown Brother Taylor and I stopped in Caryville and rented a theater and Brother Taylor is opening up a mission there.

MORRISTOWN DISTRICT

Rev. Baxter Bryant, District Pastor

Oct. 31—About 3:30 p. m. Brothers Baxter Bryant, Smith, and I started on our way to Anthonys Chapel, which is on top of a very high mountain above Sneedville. The rain was pouring, but we had service and attended to some business that the Church was interested in and which I trust will eventually terminate in such a way as to mean progress to the work.

We were very kindly entertained in

the home of Brother Matt Oaks and found that he had a very splendid family.

Morristown

Nov. 1—We reached the church just as the Sunday School was being concluded. I soon saw that there was real life and zeal in the Sunday School and that it would evidently grow rapidly under the superintendency of Brother Golden. A good spirit was prevailing and I heard many complimentary things said about Brother Bryant, the pastor.

Valley Creek

Hurrying over to Valley Creek we found that the afternoon service had begun and Brother J. S. Walker was concluding a good message on "Sanctification."

Here's news that will stir your souls, I am sure. Brother C. M. Morgan, the pastor, handed me Middle Creek's state convention mission offering, which means he is the first to have turned in the state mission money.

Jefferson City

I was with the church at Jefferson City for the evening service and found that the church has been greatly benefited by a revival since Brother Sifford has gone there and that the church is proud of Brother Sifford and his family.

Since going to Jefferson City, Brother Sifford has wired the parsonage and caught up delinquent payments on the parsonage.

Regular District Conventions

Johnson City, Feb. 13-14 at Johnson City.

Cleveland, Feb. 20-21 at N. Cleveland.

Jellico, Feb. 27-28 at Jellico.

Knoxville, Mar. 6-7 at Eighth Ave., Knoxville.

Dayton, Mar. 13-14 at LaFollette.

Chattanooga, Mar. 20-21 at E. Chattanooga.

Morristown Mar. 27-28 at Morristown.

Nashville, Apr. 3-4 at Nashville.

Cookeville, Apr. 10-11 at Cookeville.

Lawrenceburg, Apr. 17-18 at Lawrenceburg.

Dyersburg, Apr. 24-25, at Dyersburg.

Memphis, May 1-2 at Memphis.

Whitwell, May 8-9 at Whitwell.

Daisy, May 15-16 at Daisy.

McMinnville, May 22-23 at McMinnville.

Convention services will be on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon; that will give each pastor the privilege of carrying on his respective Sunday School and morning service.

Let us start praying, planning and working for the district conventions now, so that we will accomplish the greatest good possible.—J. D. Bright, State Overseer.

Fallen Humanity

By REV. C. C. McAFEE, Johnson City District Pastor

TEXT: Gen. 2:17, "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

The garden of Eden must have been a wonderful place in which to live—no sin, no heartaches, no pain, no death, and no disappointments; everything was perfect. I'm sure the sun shone every day. There were no cyclones, no dust storms, nothing to mar their happiness.

You may ask, How long were they in this perfect state? I'll answer by asking, How long does the devil leave God's people alone? Gen. 3:1 tells us the serpent (being more subtil than any other beast) was in conversation with Eve about the truth of God's statement. By persuasion he caused her to partake of the forbidden fruit and she in turn gave unto her husband. Immediately they came to the realization that they had **FALLEN, FALLEN** far from God. Humanity now was in a deep pit of sin. Communion and fellowship with God was broken. Instead of a state of perfection man found that pain and death were in existence. God's plan was marred.

You see man was unaware of the pit of sin but once he fell into it he sank **DOWN, DOWN**, bumping from one side to the other until **THUD**, he hit the bottom. Stunned by the fall, he began to wonder where he was. Looking around, he realized he was in a pit. The thing he was most concerned about then was the way out.

Presently his attention was arrested by a shadow across the opening of the pit and upon investigating he observed a man standing at the top. Instantly hope stirred within and staggering to his feet he cried aloud for help.

"My son, I am a Jewish rabbi and I will be glad to do anything I can for you, what is your desire?"

"I have fallen into the pit of sin and know not how to get out. Can you tell me by what means I can escape?"

"Ah, yes, my son, it is a pleasure to help the unfortunate. Now then," began the rabbi, "if you would be delivered from sin and inherit the world to come, you must quote David's psalm of praise (Psalm 145) three times each day. Then you will be sure of getting out of the pit of sin and will inherit the world to come."

"Then I cannot get out at once?"
"No, it will take patience, my son, and there is plenty of time. Observe to do all I have told you and you will get out in due time." And he passed on, leaving the man trying to do as he was told.

While thinking of his deplorable con-

dition, he looked up and there stood another man. His voice rang out clear and strong: "My son, where are you?"
"Here, here in the pit, can you help me to get out?"

"I am a Catholic priest and will help you out if you are willing to confess."

"Yes, Father, I will do anything to get out of this pit."

The priest replied, "You must learn all about the Catholic faith, you will be forbidden to eat meat on Friday or during Lent. You must accept this rosary and with it say your prayers. You must repeat as many prayers as there are beads—fifty-three prayers." After explaining other details he said, "Now I must go. Do as I have told you and you will get out sometime." And he passed on.

The man in sin had about come to the conclusion he would never be able to get out of the pit when he looked up again and to his surprise saw a woman sitting by the side of the pit. He sprang to his feet and cried for help.

"What is the trouble?" inquired the woman. "Oh, madam, help me get out of the pit of sin." But, my friend, you are not in a pit. Sin does not exist. It is all imagination, a delusion of the mortal mind. You did not fall, you only thought you did. Now set your mind on God. Disbelieve you ever sinned and you'll be all right. Read this book, **KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES**, I have written which tells you no one is spiritually lost. It is a sense of sin and not a sinful soul that is lost."

"But who are you and what is your name?" inquired the last man. "I am Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science. Read what I have given you and you will be out of the pit."

Just then another visitor appeared who styled himself Pastor Russell. He had a number of brightly-colored pamphlets. Without salutation he began to deny the deity of Christ, His incarnation, His atonement, and His physical resurrection.

The man in sin cried out, "All I want to know is how to get out of my predicament." "Maybe some future date, and if you fail here you may still be delivered after death. Study this book called 'Millennial Dawn' which tells you that though you never get out of the pit until after death that will just be annihilation."

He looked up once more in a weakened condition, expecting to see another of earth's teachers. This time he saw one that was different—yea, altogether lovely. He spoke: "Friend, you are in need, will you let me help you?" He had not

a word of reproof, but smiled, such a smile! Never had he seen such a face. "Help?" Yes, here is help, but he is wondering what He will tell him to DO.

How it happened he did not know. All he knew was that he was now by the side of the lovely stranger who put His strong arms around him and lifted him out of his weakness into a marvelous strength. And lo! instead of the black darkness of the pit of sin it is now light.

"Oh, how could you do it and who are you?" In answer He showed him His hands and His feet, in each the print of a nail. Then pointing to His side, He showed the mark of a spear thrust. Then He replied in part, "I earned the right to deliver you from the pit of sin. Nothing you could ever do would have delivered you from the pit of sin into which you had fallen, but I have done all that is necessary for your deliverance. I took your place, I gave my life's blood for your redemption, and now all that call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, for I am Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son."

We leave the delivered man at His feet worshipping Him.

Dear Reader, I was once in the terrible pit of sin. I cried for help. Many tried to give me advice but to no avail. Finally I found myself exhausted at the feet of Jesus and He lifted me out of the pit. If you are in the pit today, don't try every false doctrine, for there is **ONLY ONE WAY** out of this pit of sin.

Fellowship Meeting

We wish to report the fellowship meeting for October of the McMinnville district. After a very delightful ministerial meeting the service opened with a song, "I Can Tell You the Time." Then Brother Varner and wife rendered a special song. Brother Bright, our beloved State Overseer, made a very interesting talk. An offering of \$140.00 was received. Then Brother Wood, district overseer, brought a very delightful message. The power of God was in our midst and everyone received a blessing. Pray for us on this district.—W. C. Weaver, reporter.

Churches Having Paid Their Aged Ministers' Quota

(We regret that these were not listed in the previous issue.)

Earls Grove	Cedar Springs
Pine Grove	Tylersville
Smiths Chapel	Orme
Providence	Mt. Vale
Dunlap	Townsend
Hiwassee	Maple Hollow
Baxter	

DEBTORS

(Continued from page 1)

diseases. They are just like the woman who spent all she had and yet grew worse. Get hold of God! He heals the body. He delivers us from afflictions. People have their names on the church roll, but they have forgotten they owe God one thing. Before God healed them, they spent money for medicines. God healed their body, yet they act like they don't owe God one thing. If we owe the physician for taking care of the body until it reaches a certain stage of recovery, don't you know that it is a fact that we are obligated to God when He can do what no doctor can do? There are some habits we could not have overcome had it not been for God. God came in. Where we were weak, the Lord took hold of our lives. The old habits passed out of our lives. If we had paid thousands of dollars, the habits would have held right on to us. God destroyed the appetite. There is no longer a desire to indulge in those things.

I remember a prominent doctor in South Carolina. He was a doctor and the son of a doctor. While quite a young man he formulated the drug habit and was a liquor fiend. He stayed drunk nearly all the time. He was losing out in his practice. His people sent him to the cuti-cure. The physician said, "Yes, he is completely healed," and dismissed him. On his way home, some one sat down beside him on the bus with whiskey on his breath. When the bus came to the first station, he went into a saloon, got drunk and abused the driver. This happened before he got home. Hundreds of dollars were spent on him. But, Brother, he had just been kept away from those things. He was not able to take care of himself. He fell to temptation. Then, there was another man who said, "Brother Bright, for several years my system was not empty of whiskey. I smoked incessantly and cursed constantly, having to beg or apologize in the presence of ladies."

God undertook for the man. He took the flu. His wife persuaded him to let holiness people pray for him. His body was healed miraculously. There was no desire in his system for alcohol. God paralyzed his sense of smell, delivering him from the tempting scent of cigarettes, and saved his soul. He is now preaching the Gospel. He felt it was his duty to give all to God.

How much owest thou unto my Lord? You need not feel independent. When I was a boy, I longed for the time to come when I would be twenty-one years old. At that time, twenty-one years was the age when a young man was set free, so far as obligations to parents. I thought when I was a man of my own, I would do great things. I wanted to be an engi-

neer. So I thought, "When I am eighteen I am going to set myself free." Before I was eighteen, I found the prettiest peach Georgia produced. When I was twenty, I couldn't wait any longer. She must be mine. When married I was obligated to my wife. We are obligated every direction we turn. These obligations fill our very lives. We always owe some one. Just because you have a deed to the home you live in doesn't mean you are free from all obligations about that home. No! You will receive a statement from the town commissioner. You owe the town something. You are obligated to the county. You are obligated to the state, as well as the county. But when it comes to these obligations, we reconcile ourselves to the fact we owe them. When it comes to God, there are also obligations upon us.

It is a wonderful thing to testify of an experience forty years ago when God set you free. God gave us a place to reside, not set free. We are obligated to the dwelling. We must feel that way. Try to ignore statements from the tax office; you know what happens. There is a penalty that is placed on us, a special assessment. It is just as true in our lives as Christians and Church of God members. We may avoid extra assessments by saying, "Yes, Lord, I owe you this much, and I pay it gladly." When we pay it to H.m, there is always a reward that follows. Blessed be His name!

How much do we owe God? We owe God everything we can possibly be to God and to His cause. It takes a mind that thinks to determine in mathematical terms just what obligations are. Yes, the mind is called into action and we think. The first thing to consider is our obligation directly to God. We will always find what our obligation to our fellow man is when we have taken God into consideration first. For, Brother, God will show us how we are obligated to our fellow man. Living is not just eating, sleeping, and then eating and sleeping again. Living is not just going about the routine of life. Every move that we make in life, we are associated with our fellow man, and it is God's will. In that way God plans to bless the world through man. He blesses man through man. If we desire to pay our debt to our fellow man, we had better consider God's requirements. There will be no excuses offered if we consecrate our lives to God properly.

Dr. David Livingstone could have filled one of several prominent seats in London Colleges, but he found what God expected of him. He could only meet his obligations to God by going into the undiscovered sections of Africa. What he owed to God was Africa! He opened up new roads and new fields in Africa. He had twenty-seven attacks of fever. He fainted before the people in London,

while speaking to a collegiate body. When revived he finished his speech. He gave an opening for questions, and one question was, "Dr. Livingstone, considering your health, are you going back to Africa?" "Yes, I am going back. It is my Africa. His Africa!" God's and his also. When the end came, the servant found him on his knees in prayer. There was no sign of life. Dr. Livingstone had paid his debt to God and Africa.

Meeting obligations will mean sacrificing. When money pours in, it is easy to pay debts. When good fortune comes our way, we generally follow pleasure and get farther from God than we have ever been. We defer payments to God. God help us to remember Him. Help us to pay our debts with money and our lives. There is the spirit of patriotism. It is felt in the marrow of our bones. It is high time to awake to the need of the Church. The gates of hell are fighting against this institution. The world needs prayer! It was his obligation to pray. There is a lot of wickedness in America. God will hear and answer as He answered Abram and spared Lot.

How much do you owe God?

And how are you going to meet that obligation?

That man who had a real vision stepped out from Pharaoh's court. He discovered who his real mother and father were. Lord, help us to discover to whom we are due allegiance.

Our real mother is the Church. Suffer for it! Feel for one another! We owe God some suffering! We will never make it through the pearly gate until we have paid the price of suffering some. It is an age of pleasure. Zion is taking her ease. We will forget, if not careful, our obligations, but we owe God. God's Word says, "No man liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."

We hold sacred in memory the life and deeds of George Washington. He gave us our country. He felt that he owed the people that. It would have been easy to leave the command at Valley Forge, but when it came to manhood, he thought in terms that meant peace, liberty, and freedom. He suffered; left his home.

The relation of privilege and duty is close. They are classified as twins. To do your duty, you will have to meet obligations to God and man. It is beautiful to fulfill your obligation to God. God help us. We can't meet His requirements without we make a check-up. The grand total comes to a certain figure and we know that is the way God would make it up. God has given us a chance to add up. God will bring back the ledger and put it before our eyes. He has a duplicate copy. Let's be honest and sincere in our duty to God.

(Continued on page 8)

God Be Glorified

By J. L. UNDERWOOD, Dyersburg District Pastor

Yes, glorify Him for His goodness, His mercy and His great victories. And speaking of victories, the good Lord certainly has given us some victories down here on the Dyersburg district.

We arrived here about September the 15th, and were met by a fine band of people, a people who are workers and who are working for God and His good cause. We found that they had just built new Sunday School rooms, which incurred quite a little indebtedness, but we plan on finishing the liquidation of it this coming Sunday.

Not only is the Lord blessing our local work here in Dyersburg, but He is blessing all over the district. Yes, God is working and being glorified. The ministers deserve special mention here, as it has been through their efforts, and they have been especially instrumental in making some of these victories possible. May God continue to help and bless them.

Most of our churches on the district are already over the top with their state quotas. Did I hear somebody say, "That's

fine"? All right, thank you. But if you good Tennessee workers don't hurry, and watch and work, the Dyersburg district is going to be out in the front soon. Yes, thank the Lord for what He is doing for us.

Our Y.P.E.'s and L.W.W.B.'s are going good, and doing a great work, for which we praise the Lord. We are expecting greater things from the Lord. By His grace and power divine we can do exploits for Him. Let us all pray and work, brethren, as we never have before for God and His great cause, taking advantage of every opportunity that we have to do some good and be a special blessing to all that we can. The world is lost in sin. Let us work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work. We are grateful for the privilege of working in the great State of Tennessee and with such a noble leader as Rev. J. D. Bright, our esteemed State Overseer.

I ask you to pray that God will use me for His own glory.

be increasing. The financial support here is not what it should be, but we are expecting to make the honor roll, if God permits us to stay on the job, so pray for us.—B. H. Smith, pastor.

Cumberland Mt.

I am living in Whitwell now. We are getting along fine on the mountain. We have our church painted and it surely looks good. We are going to buy a new piano for the church right away. We are working together and God is blessing us.

The church broke the record in paying tithes last month. The gross tithes paid in was \$130.16 and we are looking to gain some more good members. Pray for us.—F. H. Irwin, pastor.

Jellico

We regret so much that you could not be with us yesterday, however, we appreciate the check that you sent us. The Lord certainly did bless and the presence and power of God was there, people shouted and praised God in the old time way. The offering amounted to \$253.16. I think that was fine, especially so since it rained all day.

We are getting along fine.—Sister B. H. Clark, pastor.

Reports From the Field

Jefferson City

We are keeping everything up to date in regard to our program, have some money on our state mission offering, and in the next few days expect to be able to send you not less than ten new Evangel subscriptions.—R. L. Sifford, pastor.

Johnson City

This past month has been one of our very best. We raised money for our insurance and had it renewed. The Sunday School offerings have more than doubled. The Y.P.E. has enough in the treasury now to pay off what they owe on the lighting of the church and have about \$35.00 surplus. We have bought a new Sunday School register. We also received an offering of \$25.54 to pay on the landscaping of the grounds, which is being done by an experienced man.

I would also like to say that our broadcast is really having effect. Our mail is increasing each week and our crowds are fine.—Harry Kutz, pastor.

Sale Creek

Just a few lines to let you hear from us. We are getting along fine and are striving to get our church finished before winter starts. We have already bought the flooring and the ceiling and plan to get it dressed this week. The people are remarking about how nice it

looks. I will send you a picture of it when we get the rest of the brick siding on.

We are working on the Evangel subscription drive, and hope to send in our subscriptions soon.—W. R. Wilbanks, pastor.

Dunlap

Received your good letter of November 18 with \$25.00 to apply on the parsonage and was glad to get it. We have been trying to pay as we go and so far we have been able to pay for everything we have bought. We have almost enough material on the ground to complete the building. The foundation is laid and part of the framing is up, and a few days of pretty weather will mean that we will have the building under roof.

The Lord is blessing us here and we are planning to begin a revival soon.

Please pray for us.—Your brother in Him, T. M. Basham, pastor.

Piney Grove

Just a few lines by way of greetings. I am sending another new subscription to the Evangel. We have paid off the ceiling bill for the church, which amounted to about \$95, and bought a new heater for the parsonage.

I feel that we are sowing some good seed in Selmer and the interest seems to

Y.P.E. and Sunday School District Conventions

Chattanooga, Feb. 13-14 at N. Chattanooga.

Nashville, Feb. 20-21 at E. Nashville.

Dyersburg, Feb. 27-28 at Dyersburg.

Memphis, Mar. 6-7 at Memphis.

Lawrenceburg, Mar. 13-14 at Lawrenceburg.

Whitwell, Mar. 20-21 at Whitwell.

Cleveland, Mar. 27-28 at S. Cleveland.

Daisy, Apr. 3-4 at Soddy.

McMinnville, Apr. 10-11 at Campaign.

Dayton, Apr. 17-18 at Sale Creek.

Knoxville, Apr. 24-25 at Burlington.

Jellico, May 1-2 at Jellico.

Johnson City, May 8-9 at Elizabethton.

Morristown, May 15-16 at Jefferson City.

Cookeville, May 22-23 at Silver Point.

Convention services will be on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon; that will give each pastor the privilege of carrying on his respective Sunday School and morning service.

Pastors, please cooperate in assuring each district convention the largest delegation possible and whole-hearted cooperation. We have a very capable Y.P.E. and Sunday School superintendent, and of course, he will be with each convention to do his best.—J. D. Bright, State Overseer.

FIRST PASTOR TO START PIG FATTENING CAMPAIGN



I just thought I would whisper something in your ear. We are using the pig fattening plan to raise our orphanage and mission offerings, and it is going big. I went to the dime store and bought thirty-eight five-cent glass pigs, and put one in each church home and also homes of the friends of the church. We have had them out only a few days and some of them have three and four dollars in them already. We plan to have a hog killing on New Year's night, and count the money. It is our hope that this will put us over the top with the orphanage and mission quotas. All a pastor has to do is to tell the good folk what he wants the money for and they take the pigs gladly.

Pray for us that the program will be a blessing to every one.—J. W. Maness, pastor, Bristol.

DEBTORS

(Continued from page 6)

Do you feel debt free this morning? God help us. Jesus felt His debt to His Father. The devil has the power of this world, but it will be taken from him. Jesus couldn't pay the debt to His Father by occupying world power. He paid the debt for you and me. He was interested enough to pay His debt to His Father for us. It is finished. He paid with His blood. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The Holy Ghost will tell you your duty. Be sure you do it.

Paul said, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . which is your reasonable service." "You are bought with a price." "You are not your own."

Do you love the Church of God? It

Tennessee Y.P.E. and Sunday School News

THREE MORE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOLS

We now have three more new Sunday Schools organized in the state. Two of these are on the Cleveland district. Brother Black, pastor at Mt. Olive, conducted a revival at Ooltewah and also one at Red Hill. He had some good men of his church who saw the need and felt the call to do work for God so Brother Black organized these Sunday Schools and put the brethren over them. Both works are moving along nicely and God is blessing. We believe this same spirit dwells within the souls of others to get new churches, Sunday Schools and Y.P.E.'s started and there will be many more organized this year. By this time I am sure they have a Y.P.E. at each place, or Brother Black informed me they were going to organize.

The third Sunday School was organized at Caryville a few weeks ago by Brother C. M. Taylor, district pastor of the Jellico district. Great prospects are seen there for wonderful success. May the Lord bless these faithful brethren.

Churches that had teachers' meetings for October:

N. Cleveland Sweetwater
McMinnville Nashville

Churches that have Sunday School teachers that are taking a Teacher-Training Course or have taken one:

Bristol Lenoir City
Burlington Mt. Olive
N. Cleveland W. Nashville
Sweetwater Sevierville
Whitwell Wilburns Chapel
LaFollette

We wish to urge again that each Sunday School teacher take a Teacher-

Training Course. It will certainly be a blessing to each teacher and the Sunday School as well. We also wish to mention again the teachers' meeting. Pastors, it will not be much trouble for you to call your Sunday School teachers and the superintendent together and have a meeting with them. They have some ideas they wish to make known that will cause the Sunday School to grow. The churches that have had them find they are a great help, so why not let the rest of us try it? Some of you intend to, but just haven't started yet, so may I insist that you start the earliest date possible.

The Big Ten Sunday Schools for October

1. N. Cleveland	1,164
2. E. Chattanooga	1,052
3. N. Chattanooga	777
4. Lenoir City	765
5. W. Knoxville	641
6. N. Knoxville	641
7. S. Cleveland	620
8. Daisy	575
9. E. Nashville	494
10. Soddy	438

The Big Ten Y.P.E.'s for October

1. N. Cleveland	1,194
2. E. Chattanooga	1,037
3. Lenoir City	899
4. Bridges Chapel	565
5. W. Knoxville	525
6. Soddy	515
7. Johnson City	482
8. Dunlap	471
9. Daisy	430
10. Earls Grove	381

—Faithfully yours, Geo. Brazell, State Y.P.E. and S. S. Supt.

gives you and me freedom set forth in the New Testament so that we can enjoy the blessings of God according to the dictates of our own conscience. It meant suffering on the part of Christ to make our redemption possible and He suffered.

There are 80,000 of us now. In 1886 there were only eight in Monroe county. But now there are between 75,000 and 80,000 of us. Brother Sterling and his wife suffered and those united with him suffered.

Paul said, "I am debtor to the Greek and the barbarian, to the wise and unwise."

Let's find our duty and obligation to God as laymen and ministers. It will take the rest of our lives to pay it. God will have to show mercy to us, for we are behind now in our pay days. Let's give our

lives to God. Give God what belongs to Him. Render to God that which is God's.

A HINT

A present to Rev. and Mrs.
from the church

Sweetwater

I am writing you these few lines to let you know that we are still moving on, and that we have made new seats for the church. We have painted the church on the inside, and have also painted the seats and they look so much better now.—Ed Johnson, pastor.

The Blackout Ended

By R. P. JOHNSON, First Assistant General Overseer



"The shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing," Luke 2:15.

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up," Matt. 4:16.

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel," Luke 2:32.

When speaking or thinking of light, the scientist, and even the ordinary person, speaks and thinks in terms of the illumination of a room or building and even the earth, by physical means, however there are men who dedicate their time to the study of how light originates, or their chief concern and deepest interest is in the material and processes by which light comes into being—from what source, etc. But the great masses are more concerned about the behavior of light, which, among other things, includes the influence, usefulness, and worth or value of light, and the more it influences things and beings for good, the more useful, valuable, blessed, and essential we proclaim it to be. This leads us to a consideration of the true light, the highest possible type, the most influential, useful, valuable, essential, and blessed of all lights, and we know that both reason and revelation will bear us out in this conviction and that without a shadow of a doubt.

Natural light not only illuminates the physical world, but is also essential to physical life. The physical development, growth, and perfection of things and beings depend on light, and that dependence shows the importance of light. But the light which ended the blackout for the righteous is more than an aid to life; it is life itself.

In St. John 1:4, 5, we read, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." In other words, men failed to grasp the meaning of it; they failed to understand, and the Jews in their failure to understand also failed to accept or receive the light and, of course, they thereby rejected the life.

"He came to his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God," John 1:11,12. To as many as accepted the light the

blackout of sin and unbelief ended. The kind of light that shone for the first time upon the earth in an ox stall and was introduced to the world by the angels from that lowly, humble, and despised place, began shining in the very place and way in which God could be glorified in the highest, and which would forever hereafter be for the highest good of man. God can only be glorified in the highest when His contributions prove the greatest blessing to all His creation.

Darkness implies sin, unbelief, superstition, confusion of mind, deceit of heart, condemnation of soul, imprison-



ment of spirit; but when Jesus comes into the lives of men, this blackout ends. 1 John 2:8, "I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth." 2 Cor. 4:6, "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Oh, hallelujah! The blackout has ended in our hearts, in our innermost beings; and why? Because the Christ life has moved in; yes, moved right into the darkest, most benighted and undesirable part of our being, and that life is there for a purpose. As it was in Bethlehem, so is it to be in us—to be a light unto men. As that glorious light behaved in Jesus the son of Mary, so will it behave in you and in

me. The purpose in us is the same that it was in Him—to influence others for good; to be turned on and used for the benefit and blessing of those who are groping in darkness.

Christmas to you and to me should mean that we are associated with Jesus; that we are workers together with God to the end that we might be of assistance in ending the awful blackout of misery, sin, and wretchedness which is distressing the whole world today.

We notice in Dan. 12:3 that the prophet of God said, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Oh, what a compliment to those who will dare to see that your home, your church, and your community share in a real Christian Christmas. Let us make it a time when suffering, sorrow, distress, and condemnation, which is casting down the souls of men within them, will be relieved by those of us who have received into our hearts the same life and light that came into the ox stall on the first Christmas. Daniel said that they that are wise will turn many to righteousness. They will do this by shining as the brightness of the firmament.

The first Christmas night was a bright starry night. A shining star led the shepherds to the true light. And while we think of stars, it might be worth your while to study their influence upon other planets and even upon this world of ours. In the physical world, even after the sun's face has gone down over the western hills, the stars perform their duty and keep this world from going into a complete blackout. Christ ended the blackout for the righteous and instituted the Church to the end that it might continue to shine until He would come again.

We read in St. John 9:5 that He said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." He was the light of the world because of the life which He lived, a different kind of a life, holy, pure, clean, unselfish, faithful, energetic; a life of suffering and service. Then we read again, in Matt. 5:14-16, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and

(Continued on page 15)

Religion and the World

By the Editor

Luxury

The sale of \$25,000 necklaces and bracelets, of \$15,000 to \$25,000 precious stones, and \$5,000 mink coats is reported by New York stores. If Judas were there he could justly exclaim, Why was not this "waste" given to the poor?

Jewish Persecution Continues

Reports coming out of Stockholm tell of "a growing storm of indignant protests against the treatment of Norwegian Jews" by churches of Sweden, as bishops, free church leaders, and laymen gave vent to their feelings against the Quisling Government for continued ill treatment of Jews.

South America Bars Missionaries

According to RNS, South America is barring the entry of "hundreds of North American Protestant missionaries who were formerly active in the Orient and Japan. Governments of these countries have ruled that in the light of the laws governing war, the missionaries are "undesirable aliens."

Jewery

London reports that, "A total of 32,216 Jewish soldiers in the Polish army were killed during the German invasion of Poland in 1939." It is further reported that 61,000 Jewish officers and soldiers were taken prisoner by the Germans during the same period.

Calories

According to a flash from *Prophecy*, "People need 2,400 calories of food a day." This would be, however, for such as office workers. Hard laborers need from 3,000 to 4,000 calories daily. "In Poland, the non-Jews get 680. The Jews get 400. Germans in Poland get four and one-half pounds of bread weekly; Poles, two and one-fourth; Jews, one pound."

Anderson and God

Lieut. Gen. Anderson, who is commander of the First Army in North Africa, according to *Time*, is a pious man on whom the mark of a religious background is deep. Said he to his soldiers, "Let us unshamefully and humbly ask God's help in our endeavors and strive to deserve it." It is a great thing to feel that your cause is justifiable and that you have the favor of God in an endeavor to rectify wrong even by military means.

Week of Prayer

A Universal Week of Prayer will be observed in churches throughout the world from January 3 to 10, it was announced by the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches in Christ in America, according to RNS, New York. The theme "Faith Giveth the Victory" will be the basic emphasis.

Pharaoh and the Jews

According to a report from Moscow, in France, Belgium, Poland, and other Nazi-held countries, husbands are being separated from their wives in the mass deportation of Jews on secret orders carried out from Berlin that everything possible be done to prevent Jewish birth in Europe.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May God make your Christmas merry because of abounding spiritual joy and give you health and spiritual prosperity during the new year.



Christmas Trees Restraint in Norway

A report coming out of Stockholm states that, "Norwegians will not be allowed to decorate Christmas trees with the flag of their country. The figure of Santa Claus, however, is not regarded as 'inimical to the state,' according to Norwegian police officials.

Thy Kingdom Come

"There aren't enough prisoners in Tel Aviv, Palestine, for a jail!" With a population of 200,000, this is a most remarkable thing. The police station has "lock-up" cells for fifteen men and four women—and these are rarely occupied. "The city council, therefore, turned down a proposal to build a jail," according to Jewish Missionary Magazine.

Evangelist Shelton Brock

Has been holding revival meetings at the North Cleveland church for the past three weeks. Several have been saved and several have also received the Holy Ghost. He is much used of God through the Holy Spirit to bring the power of God to bear upon the service. Pastors will make no

mistake in choosing him for a revival in your church.—Editor.

Archbishop of Canterbury

"Last fortnight he authorized a church reform. He told Anglican churchwomen that they could ignore St. Paul's 1,900-year-old edict ('Every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head') and stop wearing hats in church." Churchmen who had for long held to this tradition were shocked at his decision. Said one: "Lutheranism and the Church of England have done more to eliminate divine law from mankind than ever Marxism has done."

Church Attendance

According to a report by Harry H. McArthur, D.D., "church attendance reached a peak in 1880. The average pastor preaches today to a church seventy per cent empty. Ninety per cent of our people attend no church regularly. Weekly attendance at the movies is sixty per cent of the population. Sunday School gets fifteen per cent. Morning church service draws eight per cent and evening services two per cent. Did Jonah do worse?"

Religious Scruples

State Unemployment Compensation Commissioner Curtiss K. Thompson, of New Haven, ruled that, "Refusal of an employee to work overtime, either for religious or personal reasons, cannot be described as wilful misconduct or sufficient cause for dismissal from employment." A Jewish carpenter had refused to work on Saturday, which was in keeping with Jewish Sabbath teachings. After dismissal, the commissioner rendered the action as illegal and awarded the claimant compensation benefits following his dismissal after he refused to work overtime on Saturday.

23,000,000 Boys and Girls

According to Chas. P. Taylor, writing in *Pulpit Digest*, "23,000,000 boys and girls in the United States are without religious training or teaching of any kind whatever. Eighty-five million people go to picture shows every week, and forty-five million never darken a church door. Of the 1,500,000 major crimes per year, Bureau of Investigation records show that in 1939, 12% of all murders, 29% of all robbers, 33% of all thieves, 46% of all burglars, and 54% of all automobile thieves were under voting age." With a reported 62,000,000 people as church members or having church affiliation, this is certainly a startling revelation of indifference to the need of others for whom we are responsible unto God and whom we profess to love.



Christmas Celebration

By Earl P. Paulk, Second Asst. Gen'l Overseer

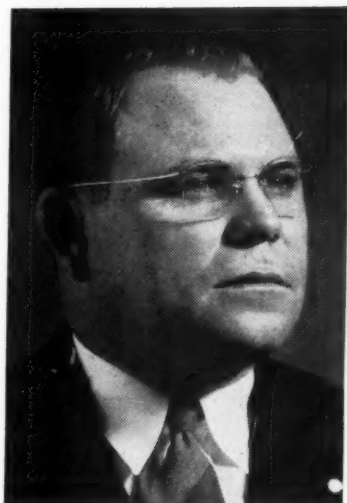
Text, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift,"

2 Cor. 9:15.

THE 25th of December within itself means no more than any other day, but we highly respect and bless this day because of that which was supposed to have happened on this day nearly two thousand years ago. It is on this day we celebrate because it has been accepted generally by all peoples and nations that this was the day on which our Lord was born, when God gave unto humanity the unspeakable gift. Some authorities, however, do not agree with this date. Some contend that our Lord was born on the 20th of April, others on the 20th of May, and some on January 6. But as we have stated before, it is not the day but that for which the day stands—the ideals, etc.

Our Lord is referred to as "the gift," yes, the indispensable One. Without this gift we would have all been lost eternally, without any hope of a way to escape. Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 John 2:1, 2, "My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

In this gift we have salvation, for neither is there salvation in any other. In this gift also we have an approach to God our Father. There is one, and only one, Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Therefore we come to the throne of grace boldly in the time of need and for everything. Also in the gift we find someone to plead our cause before God, the eternal Father, with whom is true and righteous justice. There should be no wonder in that we celebrate on this glorious day because on this day the unspeakable gift came to us, which simply meant that we were to be saved from the eternal downfall and despair and have eternal access to our Father and Creator, who will eventually



wipe all our tears and dispel all our sorrows and through this unspeakable gift we shall become His sons eternally and He will be our God.

FREE GIFT

The Babe of Bethlehem is referred to by the Apostle Paul as the free gift. Romans 5:18, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life." No one could have purchased this wonderful gift, but the motive of this unspeakable gift is revealed in the words, "God so loved, that he gave." Now to us there are various kinds of gifts. First, the gift of duty. No doubt, you have heard some say that he or she sent a present on "my birthday, therefore I must remember him or her on his or her birthday." This is a gift of duty. Then we have the gift of policy. There are those who give gifts to individuals realizing that such individuals would be at their attention in their business or political career. This kind of gift could be nothing, more or less, than a gift of policy. But in that God gave His only begotten Son, there was no replacement or opportunity. We have not put God under obligation, nor is He flattering us with His attention that He may receive the benefits of our good will. He gave only because He loved and wanted to re-

deem fallen humanity through this wonderful gift. Therefore the richest of the rich cannot have more of this wonderful salvation or know more about the Babe of Bethlehem than the poorest of the poor.

You remember the Apostle Peter said to Simon (Acts 8:20), "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God." Yes, it is an insult to our eternal Father to offer to buy or purchase this salvation which comes to us through this unspeakable gift, because after all, He owns everything and all things. His only expectation is that we come to Him, empty-handed, looking to Him for everything through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore no price we bring.

UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

I am sure that if the Apostle Paul felt disposed to describe our Lord as the unspeakable gift because he failed to find words to explain the value of this gift, how much more unworthy do I find myself to try to explain the value of this wonderful gift. But though we find ourselves absolutely unable to expound or explain the value of this unspeakable gift, yet there are some reasons for which we understand God gave this gift to fallen humanity and why the Apostle Paul made mention of Him as the unspeakable gift. It is through the Babe of Bethlehem that we are saved from our sins, consequently, from eternal ruin and downfall, which would eventually mean that we would be lost in a lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

My God, the horror of this thought is terrible. Through this wonderful unspeakable gift we have eternal life, which simply means that we shall live as long as the eternal God Himself. Also through this unspeakable gift we will gain an eternal home beyond this vale of tears, where tears will not be known and where sorrow, pain, death, and trouble will have gone, never to return unto the children of God. Oh, hallelujah! No doubt, when the Apostle Paul was writing this wonderful text concerning the unspeakable gift, he became overwhelmed with the glorious expectations of that won-

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Incarnation of the Word

By J. H. WALKER, General Overseer

IT is necessary to remind ourselves, especially at the Christmas season, that the most wonderful event that ever happened in the history of the world was when the Son of God became a man. This happened when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This was not the beginning of His existence. "He was from everlasting." "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." We read also that all things were created by Him, and without Him nothing was made that is made.

Dr. Peabody paraphrased the expression: "The transformation of a language into life." We see this transformation in three different movements. There was a creation at the beginning when the great vitalizing words of God took form in created beings. Again, when men hear the words of God and accept them within, there is that transforming of the Word into deed and finished products of holiness. The third is that mysterious fact that Christ is the Word of God transformed or incarnate in human flesh. Thus, we have Emmanuel, God with us.

Oh, it is most wonderful when we think of the whole universe being God's language, that when the great words were spoken mountains and fields and seas appeared, and animals and men came into existence at His word.

Revelation

The Word became flesh for the purpose of revelation. The grand purpose was to reveal God. In the incarnation of Jesus Christ God is revealed.

Before Christ came God revealed Himself to men through men. The revelation was not satisfactory. There seemed to be a hungering and craving in the hearts of mankind: "Oh, that I knew where I might find Him." No one had ever seen Him. "He made known his way unto Moses, and his acts unto the children of Israel." These revelations were made through men. "But when the fulness of time came," the Word became flesh that men might behold the Father in the flesh. Jesus said, "He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father." "For in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." He came to reveal God and represent God, and we can know God only through Him.

The revelation emphatically declares God to be a living be-

"The Word became flesh,"

John 1:14.



ing. God is spirit. God is light. God is love. That satisfies my heart. We absolutely refuse to be disturbed by the various so-called scientific objections that are raised to the conception of God as personal. Science admits the presence in the universe of a Something which alludes all investigation and exceeds all comprehension, but because mathematical demonstration cannot be given that this "Power" is intelligent and personal, many scientists insist that it is unknowable. But what is it? Is it force? Is it energy? Power in doing work?

Surely the existence of God as a person is by a long ways more reasonable

of belief than "an inscrutable power" or "an infinite and eternal energy" of the agnostic or scientist. It is true that we don't know all about Him and we can't think of all His thoughts, but we are taught that He is our Father, that we are His children, that Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Purpose of Redemption

The Word became flesh for the purpose of redemption. We have redemption through His blood. Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission. The Son of God must become the Son of man that He might redeem us from sin. Man alone could not atone for sins. God could not die. So in order to redeem the world from sin and death Jesus Christ must be both God and man. "He was manifested to take away sin."

There is a law in America that no man can ever become President of this Republic unless he was born within the boundary of the United States. No matter what his color, blood, breeding, skill, power over men, or even his politics, unless he was born in America and began life with the Americans, he can not become the exalted leader and commander of our people.

So in like manner the Son of God had to be born even as we are, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood. He had to live among us and share our common humanity before He could redeem us from sin. To this end He was born and for this cause came He into the world. God sends redemption to His people. We are saved by His grace, "In whom we have redemption through his blood," the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace. If there had been no revelation of God through Christ, there could have been no redemption. If you take the redemption from sin by Jesus Christ out of the world, you have a heartless, helpless, hopeless world. Let us everyone thank God for His redemptive grace, His only Son, the means of our salvation. Yes, let all the world praise God for the marvelous gift, for through Him do we have redemption. Through Him we have forgiveness of sins by His blood—"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."

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The Munificent Christ

By E. C. Clark, Editor and Publisher

Text: "In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily," Col. 2:9.

WHO

Being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," Heb. 1:3. Inherit of, and endowed with all the powers of God, Jesus came into the world in the likeness of man, that through Him God might make known "the exceeding riches of his grace" (Eph. 2:7) by the incarnation of the Godhead and revelation of "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8) unto all mankind by the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

HE WAS

Manifest through varied theophanies of God suitable in the day of each respective need of His people. To the artist, He is the One altogether lovely. To the architect, He is the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). To the astronomer, He is the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16). To the baker, He is the Living Bread (John 6:48). To the banker, He is the Hidden Treasure. To the biologist, He is Life. To the builder, He is the Sure Foundation. To the teacher, He is the Great Teacher (John 3:2). To the farmer, He is the Source and Lord of the harvest (Luke 10:2). To the florist, He is the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley. To the geologist, He is the Rock of Ages. To the horticulturist, He is the True and Living Vine (John 15). To tribunals, He is the Righteous Judge. To the jeweler, He is the Pearl of great price. To the lawyer, He is the Wonderful Counsellor. To the editor, He is the Good Tidings of great joy. To the philanthropist, He is the Unspeakable Gift. To the philosopher, He is the Wisdom of God.

HOW

He came into the world as a babe, to grow up as a tender plant before the Lord, is the climacteric of the ages. Around this manifestation the angels of heaven gathered to carol their praises and to exclaim their prophetic pronouncements. Born of humble parenthood,

yet by divine origin and acclaim, He came to earth to redeem mankind back to God. His name has been born upon the lips of those who love Him and those who hate Him, by His humble followers and by infidels. His name is praised by one and cursed by the other. The poor and downtrodden of earth have found succor and praise in the name of Jesus, as also have the statesman and wealthy. The angels broke the 400 years of prophet silence to announce that "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us go now even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

THE FAITH OF THE SHEPHERDS

These shepherds, out on the slopes of the plains watching their flocks, there in the lonely vigil of the night, hidden from worldly gaze, were doubtless meditating upon the very things about to break in upon them. Surrounded by the silent forces of nature, they immediately recognized and responded to the message borne



to them by the angels. Suddenly the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. The angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." These shepherds suddenly turned to evangelists, and with simple faith exclaimed, "Let us go and see." To the patient, believing heart, moved by faith, there is no disappointment. "They came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger," Luke 2:16. They came, they saw, because they had believed. "And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them," Luke 2:17-20.

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

These good tidings must be proclaimed, the news of eternal life; containing a joy against which no bound can be set and no geographical limits can measure, boundless, unspeakable; for every race and class, not embittered by sect, a joy peculiarly suited for every individual. This Babe was the sign of a kingdom, the token of a King. "Except ye become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven," (Matt. 18:3). What was required of us was met as a law in our Savior. A joyous message (Continued on page 11)



Good Tidings of Great Joy

SOME nineteen hundred years ago a company of shepherds who were keeping watch over their flock by night, had a visitation of heavenly visitors. Some time during the dark night the glory of the Lord superseded the darkness, and a "most wonderful message" was brought to those shepherds who were on duty—a message of gladness—not only to them but to all the world. The little town of Bethlehem in Judea had become the place where Christ the Lord, the Son of the Most High, had been born. It is not a surprise that such an One should have been unique, for He was conceived by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin—a new creation of God's hand—a divine Man, called "the Son of God." His mother, Mary, dwelt in Nazareth and had been betrothed to one, Joseph, who followed the trade of carpenter, and was a humble, pious man. Upon discovering her condition he was disposed to put her away privily, but before he could carry out his purpose he was instructed otherwise.

The emperor had ordained that every fourteen years an estimate was to be made of the population and resources of his empire, and he requested that a census be taken. Since Joseph was of the house and ancestry of David, he must needs go to Bethlehem, and notwithstanding Mary's condition, she also went. While there she gave to the world heaven's jewel, which should be a Savior to all the people. She cradled the child in a manger because no room could be found

for them in the inn. Little did King Augustus dream that this little town in Judea had given to the world a man whose name would be continued as long as the sun, and whose dominion would extend from sea to sea and would exist long after his (Augustus') name would have been forgotten. God hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes.

We should remember that Israel's religion had sunk very low in those days; they had a form of godliness but the great power of God was not present in their worship. Notwithstanding that fact, she still had a remnant of the Lord's little ones who believed the Holy Scriptures, staying their hearts on the promises of God like watchers for the morning. They were looking for the Messiah, their Redeemer. We are told by the Apostle John that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." He further tells us that, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." It is indeed a glorious thought to us that it is possible for us to have this "one-time Babe of Bethlehem" to dwell among us and also in us; that the joy of which the angel spoke to the shepherds may be our joy in these most troublesome days. His coming into the world means so much to us.

It is nice to give presents one to another on Christmas day, but the most important question is, "Is He our Christ? Does He control our lives, and is His joy our strength?"

We are deeply impressed with the spirit the angels manifested after hearing of His miraculous birth. It is one thing to "hear" and still another thing to "act." They manifested their faith in the message of the angel by going to the place where Christ was born. We are told that the wise men, upon seeing the star, began to search for the Child, and when they found Him they gave unto Him the BEST they had. In our opinion, it is a wonderful thing to be honored of the Lord to the extent that He calls on us, visits us by His heavenly messengers and impresses us by His Spirit and by the revelation of His Word of those things that are for our good. It takes a wise person to inquire after the good things that God has in store for him, and may the Lord always help us to act when we hear.

As stated before, the world was in

By E. J. Boehmer
General Sec.-Treas.



great need of a Christ, a Redeemer; of One who could lift the Jewish nation out of their fallen state. And, is this not true of the world today? Is it not true that a form of godliness is existing with many; and like Israel, many have forgotten God? The "form" may be there but they are short of the joy which accompanies the religion that Jesus brought to the world.

As the Christmastide is almost at our doors, we think of the many who are heavy-hearted; the many mothers who are earnestly praying for their boys who are in the Army preparing to defend the liberty of our nation. With many of them, tears are flowing freely, and undoubtedly, they are earnestly praying for the day when Christ, who shall sit on the throne of His Father David and who shall establish a kingdom that is free from wars and such troubles as are in the world now, shall make His appearing.

Yes, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and many of us have felt and seen His glory, and to many in the world has He given power to become the Sons of God because they believed on His name. They never will forget the day when they opened their heart's door

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

(Continued from page 5)

derful day and time.

We well remember that on another occasion the Apostle Paul said, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us." This mortal shall have put on immortality, which means no more suffering, no more sickness, and no more dying. At that time we shall have been crowned with life everlasting, crowned with glory, crowned with righteousness, never to know any more of want or fears but to be blessed of Jesus Christ our Lord and our eternal Father throughout all the ages to come.

A SON IS GIVEN

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." We always find the Word of the Lord to be true and dependable and infallible. When He told Adam, who had been beguiled by the serpent, that the seed of the woman was to come in the fullness of time to bruise the serpent's head, He meant it. But the years dragged their slow length along until centuries had passed, and still He came not until the shadows deepened into an Egyptian night, and God's people had groaned under the burden of the taskmasters of Egypt.

Then Isaiah rang the chimes of prophecy with a glad sound and hope revived; but Isaiah, the bell-ringer, could only foretell the weary world what would be waiting while seven centuries dragged their slow length along. Then the hand on God's dial pointed to the hour and the clock strikes! And yonder in Bethlehem, where it was so prophesied that the child should be born, is a Judean woman, cooing a lullaby to her child lying in a manger. God has not forgotten to be gracious. This is a long-looked-for Messiah, whom kings and prophets longed to see, and died without the sight. The songs of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to all men," is but an articulation of the far-away bells of prophecy.

Also this was a fulfillment of what the angel had to say to Mary, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." And at the time this our Savior made His advent into the world, heaven and earth were made to rejoice together. It is so stated in St. Luke 2:13, "And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and singing, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward men.'"

And even still today it is this Babe, the unspeakable gift, that tens of thousands have chosen to follow as their King and Savior. They are made to feel heaven and earth rejoice together. The blessings and glory of that supernatural world comes to us through Jesus Christ our Lord, and we are made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

HE SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, YEA, WONDERFUL IN HIS BIRTH

Though He was born in a very humble place and laid in a manger, yet He brought down a heavenly host, singing the praises of the eternal God. The wise men came from the East. Peace and good will, joy, and happiness came to humanity. His was a wonderful birth. As it is written, great is the mystery of godliness. God is manifest in the flesh. Angels desired to look into the mystery. Who shall explain the interweaving of deity and humanity, as the warp and the woof in the fabric, in this child wrapped in swaddling bands and lying in a manger? Yet upon the swaddling bands is written "Emmanuel," "God is with us." Oh, glory to God forever! How wonderful!

Wonderful is His life. A life briefly comprehended in this: "He went about doing good"—yea, healing the sick, loosening the dumb tongue, unstopping the deaf ears, feeding the multitudes, breaking up funeral processions, raising the dead, casting out demons and devils, answering all questions with dignity and intelligence that the Herodians, scribes, and Pharisees could put to Him. Bless His name both now and forever!

Wonderful is His death, for never a man died as this man. He tasted death not for Himself but for every man. He was innocent of sin, yet He bore the burden of the world of sin until His great heart was broken under it.

Wonderful is His resurrection, for by the power of an indwelling life He triumphed over the king of terror and ascended up on high, took captivity captive that He might forevermore give gifts unto men.

Wonderful, most wonderful, is His life after death, for now He sitteth upon His throne high and lifted up, directing the course of current events. "Is it not amazing," said Napoleon, "that whereas the ambitious dreams of Caesar, Alexander, and myself should have vanished into thin air, a Judean peasant should be able across the centuries to control the destiny of nations and the children of men?" Yea, millions have fallen at His feet, there to be redeemed from eternal despair and forever more to be blessed in Him.

So let each of us fall, fall before Him in grace with a heart of gratitude, with thanks unto God for the unspeakable gift. May each and every one of us be

filled with the spirit which He possessed—that of thinking of others, for even Christ pleased not himself. He gave His all to bless others and to help others, to lift them into a home of eternal happiness. May each and every one of us celebrate this Christmas with reverence and a heart full of thankfulness to God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

(Continued from page 8)

and bade Him come in, and they are now supping with Him and He with them. To them He is the "fairest of ten thousand" and the One "altogether lovely." They, too, can say with the heavenly messenger of old, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men."

It is said that when Herod heard the things concerning the birth of Christ that he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. The humble shepherds were glad that He made His appearing; the wise men loved Him enough to give Him their best, but here was a man that was "troubled." What a contrast, and why should not this message that the angels brought appeal to Herod? Why should not the whole world today accept Him? It is all because they will not "believe the report," and for that reason the arm of the Lord was not revealed to them. To some He has no comeliness. There is no beauty in Him to them, neither do they desire Him; they despise, reject Him, and close their ears and hearts to the message of "good will to all men."

We close our message with a word of encouragement to those who may have heartaches and those who may be weighted down with a heavy burden. Possibly in some homes there is a member of the family missing. In some cases it may be that the father and mother (because of the present war conditions) have not heard from their darling boy for months. We know your hearts are heavy, but while the Christ, whose birthday we shall soon celebrate, is controlling your life, please remember the words of the prophet where he said, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."

The Christ of whom we are writing, was once the Babe of Bethlehem's manger, who grew in stature and wisdom, and became the "man of sorrow." He was acquainted with grief; took upon Him the form of a servant, and later bowed His head and died; ascended to the Father, and at the end of this age will return for His own, when sorrow and sighing and all suffering will forever have passed, and we shall then see Him as He is; be made like Him and we shall forever be with Him!

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



B. T. S. Celebrates Silver Anniversary

First Week of January

SPECIAL SILVER BIRTHDAY OFFERING FOR BIBLE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

January 3, 1943

As we begin the new year, may we pause during the first week to reflect upon a little incident of the Church of God the first of January, 1918—the beginning of its Bible Training School.

Many were the hardships, disappointments, and struggles of the School during those early years. In its beginning there were only six members, housed in a borrowed room; but the spirit of Him who rode on a borrowed animal and had no place to lay His head was with the institution. It taught the true principles of service to man and trained the young men and women who attended it for the Master's service, and it has grown until today it stands with an outstanding record and many of its honored graduates and students fill various responsible places in the Church—missionaries, overseers, and successful pastors and evangelists. Many others fill coveted positions in various business enterprises. Men and women, with strong Christian characters, have left it to follow successful careers. The sun literally never sets on the admirers of this great institution, and I can hear voices from all around the world saying, "God bless our School and College."

The beautiful, commodious five-story building erected last year has certainly met a great need. However, the rapid advance in prices of materials and labor after the building had been begun took a few thousand dollars which could have been used in properly furnishing and equipping the building; and the School is in need of equipment to meet present-day standards. We feel that at this time it is only fitting and proper that a day be observed in prayer and remembrance of our Bible School and College.

Therefore, I, J. H. Walker, General Overseer of the Church of God, do in-

On January 1, 1918, Bible Training School was established at Cleveland, Tenn. This year, the week beginning January 1, 1943, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the school. Watch for further announcements in the Evangel.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Christmas spirit had its beginning when Jesus was born in Judea. The wise men of that country journeyed to the city of Bethlehem to carry gifts unto the new-born Babe who was to be their King. Their spirit and motive was one of deep reverence.

Our observance of Christmas should be sacred to us, and not merely a time of feasting and enjoyment. Many people never stop to really think what the true purpose of Christmas is. This year, as never before, we should spend the time in prayer, in sober-mindedness, and in reverence to our Savior.

For many there will be no festivities, but there will be battles and hardships. For others who are not in active service or fighting, there will be days of hunger and cold; while we will be privileged to enjoy many good blessings.

Let us take advantage of our opportunities and let us do all that we can to help others see that the spirit of Christmas should be a sacred commemoration of the birth of our Savior. — Maudie Wood.

vite all ministers and churches to join with us in special prayer that God will continue to bless and help our School, and on January 3 a special silver offering for this worthy institution will be received.

The Y.P.E.'s and Sunday Schools will have full credit in the national contests for all the offerings raised on this anniversary. Make all checks and money orders payable to the Bible Training School and College, Zeno C. Tharp, President. —J. H. Walker, General Overseer.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Tonight a blanket of soft white snow seems to transform Sevierville into a wonderland. Students have felt the excitement of a coming Christmas, and dormitory rooms have been decorated with bright trimmings. Snowballing and skating on the ice have done their part to add to the thrill of December and the longing for Christmas to come.

It is at this time, when the people seem happy and thrilled and the world seems to sleep peacefully under a blanket of glimmering snow, that we think of the great spirit of Christmas. There are spirits of giving, good will, unity, joy, anxiety, and many others, but the greatest of all is the spirit of love. It was love that brought our Savior to this world that glorious night in Bethlehem when the angels announced His coming. It is that same love today that causes one to sacrifice in order that someone else might be made happy at Christmas.

The spirit of Independence Day is proud and strong, but not so is the spirit of Christmas. It is sweet, humble, simple; thrilling the hearts of the children and inspiring the lives of the elders. This spirit is encouraging, reassuring us of the greatest gift ever given, and calling us to follow closer in the Savior's steps.

As the world greets Christmas this year, it is entangled in a great conflict and war has robbed the world of its peace; however, worse than that is the fact that individuals are without that soul peace that Jesus came to give them. Those who have that peace not only remember that glorious event, His first appearing, but they are looking forward to the day when He shall come again and receive them unto Himself, that where He is there they may be also. His coming is soon. Be ready! We may spend Christmas in heaven with our Savior, the King of kings.—Lucille Settle.

The persons who overestimate their own ability usually underestimate the ability of others with whom they chance to labor.

Requests For Prayer

We receive many requests for the salvation of relatives, loved ones, and friends, also for urgent unspoken requests. There are so many of these it is impossible to publish them, but we ask that all take them to heart and earnestly pray that the Lord will answer prayer in their behalf. In order for requests to be published they should be signed.

Pray For

The healing of my afflicted body. I am a shut-in and doctors say I can't be cured. I know Jesus can heal all sickness. Please pray that I may be healed, if it is the Lord's will.—Mrs. Bessie A. Thompson, Norwood, N. C.

Me to be healed of heart trouble; my troubled soul; my sons.—Mrs. Essie Glass, 702 2nd St., Perry, Okla.

God to undertake for my home and me; my loved ones.—Mrs. Sam Cook, Homerville, Ga.

God to undertake, He knows all about it.—Mrs. W. L. Beardin, Alamo, Ga.

The healing of a friend's body.—Miss Bessie Lewis, Pearson, Ga.

My daughter, Alyce Baker, to be healed of appendicitis.—Mrs. E. D. Forman, Gen. Del., Delhi, La.

Me to be healed of a severe stomach trouble.—Mrs. Cora Flemming, Rt. 1, Box 73, Murphy, N. C.

God to heal my body; my husband, mother and father to be healed.—Mrs. Myrtle Little, Hazard, Ky.

The healing of my afflicted body; my sister's son who was in the Military Hospital when last heard from; my mother, sister and sons.—Izora McDaniel, 104 2nd St., Thomaston, Ga.

The healing of my poor old crippled limbs. The 21st of this month (November) I was seventy-five years old. I gave the orphans seventy-five pennies and yesterday I gave them thirty-seven pennies for how new I was—how long I have been saved.—Mary Lynch, Rt. 2, Buford, Ga.

The healing of my son who is in the Service, his health is bad.—Mrs. J. C. Oldham, Pleasant Shade, Tenn.

Me to be healed of back trouble.—Mrs. J. L. Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 67, Bartow, Fla.

My little grandbaby, Faye Marie Lord, to be healed.—Claude E. Chambless, 222 N. 2nd St., West Helena, Ark.

The healing of my body, head and throat. There is no one here to pray for me and it seems my prayers are weak.—Mrs. J. O. Duncan, Rt. 2, Stone Mountain, Ga.

God to undertake for me.—Mrs. Daisy Hooks, 86 Clairmont St., Clover, S. C.

My sons and me.—India Carr, Centerville, Iowa.

God to heal our baby, his head has risen and his ear hurts; God to undertake for a request.—Rev. S. C. Burton, Clayton, Ga.

My mother's side to be healed, it bothers her lots; my body to be healed.—Miss Lydia Mae Ayers, Rt. 3, Tusculumbia, Ala.

The complete healing of my body, the doctor says I have a growth in my throat and trouble in my chest but I know the Lord can heal. I am the only one in the way of holiness so I do not have any encouragement.—Mrs. W. C. Loyless, Pelham, Ga.

The Lord to heal me of asthma; my little boy to be healed of fits.—Metta Eagerton, 3608 Wilder Ave., Tampa, Fla.

The saving and healing of my sixteen-year-old son, he has T. B. of the bone and is in a cast. He is to stay there the rest of his days if the Lord doesn't heal his body.—Renee Tipton, Gulston, Ky.

The Lord to heal my sister-in-law, Sister Ruggles, Logan, W. Va., and her daughter, Mrs. Robert Delaney, Ketts Hill, Ohio, of something like eczema on their hands.—Mrs. Louise Ruggles, Yolyn, W. Va.

My husband to be healed; our boys to be healed.—Mrs. J. L. Sundahl, Henning, Minn.

THE MUNIFICENT CHRIST

(Continued from page 7)

this proclaimed now as it was then by joyous shepherds.

WHY

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It is a common law of love to seek expression in the form of giving of gifts as an evidence and token of that love. Not only was this the strongest evidence of God's love for sinners, but it was the only

way by which men could be saved. Both the law of love and the law of requirement was met in this gift of the Son of God. The requirement of the law of love was that we "believe." This requirement was and always will be met by those who choose to follow God. The prophets believed, the shepherds believed. The one prophesied of His coming and the other exclaimed that He had come. Royalty and humility as to circumstances and personages are here intermingled: the Creator of all things, God, born in a manger; angels, prophets, and shepherds on a divine mission of redemptive mercy. Only time, however, separates between the glory and glorification of the Creator and creatures, so that the appearance of the administration of mercy and messengers of mercy may rightfully associate.

WHEN

At the time of reformation, when it was expedient that God set things right, that is, the people needed a better covenant and God needed a Savior that would set right once and for all the creature as to his guilt before God. Therefore, meats, drinks and divers washings and carnal ordinances must give place to an unchangeable priesthood in Christ. Thus this reformation was also called the "fulness of time" or the "time appointed of the Father" "in the end of the age" (Gal. 4:2-4; Heb. 9:10-26). As to world conditions, the whole Roman Empire was at peace with the whole world. At such rare moments of peace, it is said that the gates of the temple of Janus at Rome were closed, there being, as they supposed, no need for the presence of the god to guide and lead their conquering armies. So wrote Milton in his "Ode of the Nativity," "No war or battle's sound was heard the world around. The idle spear and shield were high uphung. The hooked chariot stood unstained with hostile blood. The trumpet spake not to the armed throng, and kings sat still with awful eye as if they surely knew their sovereign Lord was by." The angels doubtless sang not of this temporary lull, for the gates of Janus were quickly again thrown open within sight of the spot where the shepherds sang. Barely seventy years later than the angels caroled the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, the holy city was sacked and one of the most terrible wars raged within precincts sanctified by the holy Savior's presence.

HEROD AND THE SHEPHERDS

Herod heard of the star of the wise men; he inquired about Jesus. The wise men saw the star. The shepherds saw the child. Here are all the factors necessary to obtain salvation through Christ: Hearing, believing, and finally seeing. Herod lamented his final lot and the shepherds rejoiced in their anticipated lot.

REPORTS

Having Good Services

There are only two churches in Nebraska but we are getting so many to read the Evangel. I am sure there are good advantages for more Churches of God in this state. I have an aunt who did not have time to read another paper but I sent her the Evangel anyway and now she says, "I surely read it first, it is so good." How wonderfully God works if His Word can go into so many homes. By laying the Evangel on my body I was healed of such a tired feeling.

We are having good Spirit-filled services, with three saved lately and two added to the church. The church has love for one another. We thank our loving Brother Row Woodard and his wife for his kindness and straight preaching, and for all who came by in times past. There is no other church for me but the Church of God.—Sister Verna Davis, clerk, 512 N. 7th Ave., Wymore, Neb.

Grand Ledge Moving Forward

We are praising God for the great things that have been done in the church as well as the community of Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Since the Assembly we came here and the people all began to cooperate with me from the beginning till the present, and are still working with greater interest than ever. First, I want to spread the good news that will be an interest to all. Lawrence Peabody is the district Y.P.E. and Sunday School superintendent of the Lansing district. God is blessing that work and we have accomplished great things, which is a secret till camp meeting time. Second, Brother Herbert Maguire is pastor of Lake Odessa and they are cooperating with him, and have increased in attendance, also in Sunday School, and organized a new Y.P.E. and L.W.W.B., raised the aged ministers' fund and done many great things already, and still growing. Third, Ionia Mission is taking on new interest and the work is progressing fine, under the leadership of Brother Sears. They are standing by him, and God is blessing. Fourth, the Lansing new church, which cost approximately \$5,000.00, is showing a good interest and growing very nicely. We had our first rally there with great attendance, and the offering for our mission is a secret at present. Brother O. E. Smith, of Detroit, is pastor there. Fifth, Grand Ledge has purchased a new building and remodeled it throughout, with five nicely furnished rooms upstairs for the parsonage, running water up and down-

stairs, hot water and heat, all decorated very nicely, and every one had a part in the work. The business people said it was the best interest shown in ten years and God is blessing and doing great things. The L.W.W.B. furnished the parsonage. The place is worth approximately \$3,500.00 and we would not take that for it. Every one is well pleased with the results, and all feel encouraged to work harder and stick together to make the Church of God a shining lighthouse to the community of Grand Ledge. Come and see what God has done. I wish to state that Brother Herbert Maguire is a real brother and has been cooperating with me in every respect, and we are all moving forward for God and His Church. Pray that we will reap a harvest of souls this year.—W. T. Truett, district overseer, Grand Ledge, Mich.

Dakotas' Ministers' Meeting

We, of the States of North and South Dakota, are rejoicing because of the precious time of unity, fellowship and spiritual uplifting experienced during the meeting of the ministers held at Lemmon, S. Dak., October 26, 27. In every business deliberation it seemed that the Spirit of God was leading, and we are looking forward to seeing great things accomplished for God and His Church throughout this entire Assembly year.

We were happy to have with us our Second Assistant General Overseer, Brother Earl P. Paulk, whose timely messages were truly God-inspired, and delivered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Word as expounded by Ray Hill, overseer of Montana, was made life to each one who heard, and the benefits of all these services will be felt for some time to come.

Notably, too, was the earnest, sincere attitude on the part of the Bible School students present, who were to begin an arduous study of the Word of God on the day following the ministers' meeting. Even in the face of these trying times we are expecting a great year for the Northwest Bible and Music Academy.

We are happy to announce that during this meeting a Committee of Action was appointed for the purpose of purchasing a state parsonage, and plans are going forward in such a way that we shall soon be able to announce the purchase of a fine property.

The leadership of our esteemed state overseer, Brother Glyndon Logsdon, is greatly appreciated, and we ask that you pray with us for God's continued bless-

ing and leading upon the work here in North and South Dakota.—Mrs. Wm. F. Dych, clerk, Mobridge, S. Dak.

FREEBURN, Ky.—I thank the Lord for His wonderful love and the sweet Comforter that abides in my soul, for old time victory over sin and the devil and for the good saints and people at Freeburn, Ky. We have some of the very best people here, loyal in every way, and they stand for the Church of God foursquare and live the life. Thank the Lord.

Our church is small but we rank number one all the time. I have been here going on two years and have not had one "rising up" yet. Thank God for that. Our little band loves one another and stands together. Others are looking this way. Pray that they may come in and that others may come. We have lots of opposition here but Jesus said, "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." Well, if you have a pure heart and clean hands you come and help us lift Him up. We have part of our program over for this year and will have the rest, D. V. Pray for us and come help us. We are expecting a revival to start. Pray that God will give us many souls. My heart goes out for lost souls and our boys on the battlefield. I have one boy in the service. Help me pray for him. I believe Jesus is coming soon and I want to go when He comes, don't you? Well, all you have to do is just be ready.

When you are passing this way stop and see us and preach for us. Come with us, we will do you good.—Rev. Sam Holcomb, Box 3.

REVIVALS

VERO BEACH, Fla.—A two weeks' revival came to a close here last night. Brother W. F. Hudson did the preaching. The Lord blessed in each service. We feel that a great and lasting good has been accomplished. Besides the saints being encouraged five were saved, one sanctified and one filled with the Holy Ghost. The revival closed with new seekers at the altar and although Brother Hudson had to leave us the revival fire is still burning and we feel that more souls will find the Lord as a result of the Holy-Ghost-inspired messages he delivered. We appreciate our pastor, Brother Jesse Deas, and family. They have the work at heart and our Sunday School is growing; there is also new interest in our Y.P.E., for which we praise our God. Pray for us at Vero Beach.—Mrs. Monroe New, Box 594.

LANCASTER, Ky.—We have just closed a good revival which ran for five weeks. Brother W. L. Bloomfield, the

pastor of this new work, did the preaching with some help by Brother Henry Robertson and Brother Russell Holman. Ten were saved, six sanctified and one filled with the Holy Ghost. This is a church ready to be set in order at any time and we are praying for a church building, for there are many people looking for holiness here at Lancaster. Please pray with us for this mission work to be a success.—Edward Davis.

NEON, Ky.—We are happy to be here as pastor. We have some of the finest people to work with I ever met. We have started on our church program. Rev. T. J. Crank, of Hamilton, Ohio, is with us in a revival. It seems a revival spirit is here. We have good meetings at our regular services. Brother Crank is a good, firm minister of the gospel. He is able and has the ability to preach Bible doctrine. Pray for us as local pastor.—George L. Cravens.

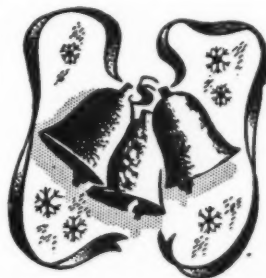
JASONVILLE, Ind.—We recently closed a good revival here with Rev. H. O. Harris as evangelist. We were certainly glad to have Brother Harris with us for this meeting. His timely messages, seasoned with the Holy Ghost and backed by the power of God, were a great blessing to the church as well as the unsaved. Seven were saved and reclaimed and one filled with the Holy Ghost. Every department of the church was strengthened. Brother Harris is now at Coalmont, Ind., in a revival.—Frank Standifer, pastor, 520 S. Meridian St.

SHELBY, N. C.—Indeed, we truly praise God for the best revival Shelby has ever known. God met with us from the first and we have really been blessed. A three weeks' revival has just come to a close with sixteen saved, thirteen sanctified, twelve filled with the Holy Ghost, and eleven added to the church. We are truly praising God for His blessings. Brother Heath, of Talladega, Ala., did the preaching. Pray for us here at Shelby that we may stay on the firing line until Jesus comes.—Mrs. Estelle Bristow.

TALLADEGA, Ala.—We just closed a successful revival conducted by Rev. S. C. Chambers. Twenty-three were saved, thirty-two sanctified, twenty-four filled with the Holy Ghost, twenty-two added to the church, and we received by transfer eleven, making a total of thirty-three members received during the revival. Twenty-five were baptized in water. God is blessing us at Talladega. Pray that the revival spirit will continue.—H. T. Statum, pastor, Box 300.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—We have just closed a two weeks' revival here at Tuscaloosa Church of God, with Sister Farr doing the preaching. The church was revived under her wonderful preaching and a spirit of unity prevailed. We hated to give our good pastor up, Brother G. C. Spencer, but the Lord saw fit to send us another who is filled with the Spirit of God. I am glad to say that we all love Brother Shumaker and his family. He is a hustler and a good preacher. I have been a member of the Church of God around thirty-eight years and I am proud to say that I still have victory in my soul. Each day grows brighter to me. I praise God this morning for this wonderful salvation that keeps me every day and keeps me happy and makes me love my neighbors.

We are just a few in number but we have built a church at Alberta City known as the Tuscaloosa Church of God. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless us as He has in the past.—J. A. McAllister, Rt. 2, Box 142, Coker, Ala.



RICHMOND, Ky.—Sister Bessie Jones, of Knoxville, Tenn., just closed a three weeks' revival here in Richmond. Eight were saved, three sanctified, one filled with the Holy Ghost and the church in general was greatly blessed and uplifted spiritually. The closing night of the revival there were several seekers at the altar. We thank the Lord for Sister Jones' consecrated life and her ministering to us here. We are expecting a great year in the Lord here in Richmond as the Lord is with us and we have a fine group of real Church of God members.—Rev. Ed Denham, pastor, 122 Oak Ave.

TESTIMONIES

Trusted God for Twenty Years

ALARKA, N. C.—To the saints scattered abroad, I am at the Silver Mine church in a revival and want you to pray for God to bless and use me to His glory.

I promised God when He healed me I would do all I could against the devil. Well, I was healed of a cancer a year ago, and the Lord caused a large tumor to come from my body in August. It was two weeks before it dropped off. I had

Brother W. F. Walker and Brother Stone and his coworkers and the church at home to pray for me. My husband got scared and talked to the doctor about me. The doctor told him that from three to five days would be as long as I could live if I didn't go to the hospital. He came back and told me the doctor said it would set up gangrene. I said, "God made the doctor and he can keep gangrene down," so I trusted God. He had healed me of a cancer when I knew no doctor could heal me. I would tell the folks I was going to get well but they thought it was impossible. I was near death but God kept me by His mighty power. He has the same power He had when He healed the woman who touched the hem of His garment. Oh, glory to God! I have trusted God twenty years. If Lazarus had sent after the doctor God wouldn't have got the glory out of his sickness, but they sent for Jesus and Jesus said his sickness was to the glory of God. He told us to call the elders of the church, so God's people ought to do what He says for us to do. They tried to get me to go to the hospital. I said I could never preach divine healing any more and that I had rather die than to bring reproach on the Church of God, so I held to God's unchanging hand and I am stouter than I have been in four years.—Sarah York.

Desires Greater Victory

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want you to pray for me that I may get back in the fold. I still hold on to God but do not have the faith and love I did.

My baby had a raging fever last night. I took the Evangel and laid it on her body and almost instantly the fever left her.

Pray for me and my family. There are twelve in my home now and I am the only one who claims religion and I feel very weak. Please pray that God will have His way with me.—Maggie Cameron, Garrison, Ky.

I Am Trusting Him

Please pray for my healing. I read Brother Archer's sermons on faith in the Evangel and they really were a blessing to me, as I have been suffering so and am off where I cannot get to services. Please pray for my loved ones out in sin and others away from God, that they will see and realize they are lost and get right with God before it is too late. I have trusted the Lord for my healing twenty-two years and I am trusting Him now. His will be done. May God bless you. Jesus is coming soon and being ready to meet Him means more than anything else.—Mrs. Julia Ingham Jones, Rt. 1, Box 37-B, Lithia, Fla.

INCARNATION OF THE WORD

(Continued from page 6)

Jesus said, "If I go away, I will send you another Comforter, and if I go not away, the Comforter will not come—the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost." He said that He would send a guide to lead and direct us. It was said of the heavenly being to the disciples, watching longingly as Jesus advanced through the air upward and onward toward His Father, "This same Jesus that ye see go into heaven shall come again in like manner." Acts 1:11. It is through the gift of God in giving His Word to become flesh that He should redeem our bodies and give us eternal redemption. "Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood," Acts 20:28. So the Word becoming flesh purchased the Church with His blood; to wit the redemption of our bodies.

Thus we can see that the Word becoming flesh made it possible for us to know the love of God. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Oh, the wonder of wonders! He takes hold of the hand of God and the hand of sinful man and brings them together in Himself. Thus the center of the gospel is in the incarnation—the Word that became flesh. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. Take away the incarnation and our faith remains a chaotic ruin. Blot out the revelation, strike out His redemption, annihilate the work of reconciliation, and there is absolutely nothing left. All is vain. There is no hope. But glory to God! for His unspeakable gift, His immeasurable love, His eternal holiness!

It isn't hard to believe that God had to become man, because man was originally made in His image and likeness. May we everyone, though faced with the problem of a world in a death struggle, look up even though through tear-dimmed eyes, and thank God. Even though our homes are broken and torn and loved ones are missing and things are so different from what we planned, let us remember that Jesus is all in all. He knows every one of us and, best of all, He cares for us. We should never forget all His benefits. We should ever be thankful for His marvelous works and answers to prayer.

I give the following story, which I hope will prove a blessing to some of

our ministers who may at this time need a refreshing:

A Thrilling Christmas Time on the Frontier

I remember a day one winter that stands out like a boulder in my life. The weather was unusually cold, our salary had not been regularly paid, and it did not meet our needs when it was.

My husband was away much of the time, traveling from one district to another. Our boys were well, but my little Ruth was ailing, and at best none of us were decently clothed. I patched and repatched, with spirits sinking to the lowest ebb. The water gave out in the well, and the wind blew through cracks in the floor.

The people in the parish were kind, and generous, too; but the settlement was new, and each family was struggling for itself. Little by little, at the time I needed it most, my faith began to waver.

Early in life I was taught to take God at His word, and I thought my lesson was well learned. I had lived upon the promises in dark times, until I knew, as David did, "who was my Fortress and Deliverer." Now a daily prayer for forgiveness was all that I could offer.

My husband's overcoat was hardly thick enough for October, and he was often obliged to ride miles to attend some meeting or funeral. Many times our breakfast was Indian cake and a cup of tea without sugar.

Christmas was coming; the children always expected their presents. I remember the ice was thick and smooth, and the boys were each craving a pair of skates. Ruth, in some unaccountable way, had taken a fancy that the dolls I had made were no longer suitable; she wanted a nice large one, and insisted on praying for it.

I knew it was impossible; but, oh! how I wanted to give each child its present. It seemed as if God had deserted us, but I did not tell my husband all this. He worked so earnestly and heartily, I supposed him to be as hopeful as ever. I kept the sitting room cheerful with an open fire, and I tried to serve our scanty meals as invitingly as I could.

The morning before Christmas, James was called to see a sick man. I put up a piece of bread for his lunch—it was the best I could do—wrapped my plaid shawl around his neck, and then tried to whisper a promise as I often had, but the words died away upon my lips. I let him go without it.

That was a dark, hopeless day. I coaxed the children to bed early, for I could not bear their talk. When Ruth went, I listened to her prayer; she asked for the last time most explicitly for her

doll, and for skates for her brothers. Her bright face looked so lovely when she whispered to me: "You know I think they'll be here early tomorrow morning, mamma," that I thought I could move heaven and earth to save her from disappointment. I sat down alone, and gave way to the most bitter tears.

Before long James returned, chilled and exhausted. He drew off his boots; the thin stockings slipped off with them, and his feet were red with cold. "I wouldn't treat a dog that way, let alone a faithful servant," I said. Then as I glanced up and saw the hard lines in his face and the look of despair, it flashed across me, James had let go, too.

I brought him a cup of tea, feeling sick and dizzy at the very thought. He took my hand and we sat for an hour without a word. I wanted to die and meet God, and tell Him His promise wasn't true, my soul was so full of rebellious despair.

There came a sound of bells, a quick stop, and a loud knock at the door. James sprang up to open it. There stood Deacon White. "A box came by express just before dark. I brought it around as soon as I could get away. Reckoned it might be for Christmas. 'At any rate,' I said, 'they shall have it tonight.' Here is a turkey my wife asked me to fetch along, and these other things I believe belong to you."

There was a basket of potatoes and a bag of flour. Talking all the time, he hurried in the box, and then, with a hearty good-night he rode away.

Still, without speaking, James found a chisel and opened the box. He drew out first a thick red blanket, and we saw that beneath was full of clothing. It seemed at that moment as if Christ fastened upon me a look of reproach. James sat down and covered his face with his hands. "I can't touch them," he exclaimed, "I haven't been true, just when God was trying me to see if I could hold out. Do you think I could not see how you were suffering? And I had no word of comfort to offer. I know now how to preach the awfulness of turning away from God."

"James," I said, clinging to him, "don't take it to heart like this, I am to blame, I ought to have helped you. We will ask Him together to forgive us." "Wait a moment, dear, I cannot talk now;" then he went into another room. I knelt down, and my heart broke; in an instant all the darkness, all the stubbornness rolled away. Jesus came again and stood before me, but with the loving word: "Daughter!"

Sweet promises of tenderness and joy flooded my soul. I was so lost in praise and gratitude that I forgot everything

else. I don't know how long it was before James came back, but I knew he, too, had found peace.

"Now, my dear wife," he said, "let us thank God together;" and he then poured out words of praise, Bible words, for nothing else could express our thanksgiving.

It was 11 o'clock, the fire was low, and there was the great box, and nothing touched but the warm blanket we needed. We piled on some fresh logs, lighted two candles, and began to examine our treasures.

We drew out an overcoat; I made James try it on; just the right size, and I danced around him, for all my light-heartedness had returned. Then there was a cloak, and he insisted in seeing me in it. My spirits always infected him, and we both laughed like foolish children.

There was a warm suit of clothes also, and three pairs of woolen hose. There was a dress for me, and yards of flannel, a pair of arctic overshoes for each of us, and in mine was a slip of paper. I have it now, and mean to hand it down to my children. It was Jacob's blessing to Asher: "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy days so shall thy strength be." In the gloves, evidently for James, the same dear hand had written: "I, the Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee: Fear not, I will help thee."

It was a wonderful box, and packed with thoughtful care. There was a suit of clothes for each of the boys, and a little red gown for Ruth. There were mittens, scarfs, and hoods; down in the center, a box; we opened it and there was a great wax doll. I burst into tears again; James wept with me for joy. It was too much; and then we both exclaimed again, for close behind it came two pairs of skates. There were books for us to read, some of them I had wished to see, stories for the children to read, aprons and underclothing, knots of ribbon, a gay little tidy, a lovely photograph, needles, buttons and thread, actually a muff, and an envelope containing a ten-dollar gold piece.

At last we cried over everything we took up. It was past midnight, and we were faint and exhausted even with happiness. I made a cup of tea, cut a fresh loaf of bread and James boiled some eggs. We drew up the table before the fire; how we enjoyed our supper! And then we sat talking over our life, and how sure a help God always proved.

You should have seen the children the next morning. The boys raised a shout at the sight of their skates. Ruth caught up her doll, and hugged it tightly without a word; then she went into

her room and knelt by her bed.

When she came back she whispered to me, "I knew it would be here, mamma, but I wanted to thank God just the same, you know." "Look here, wife, see the difference." We went to the window and there were the boys out of the house already, and skating on the crust with all their might.

My husband and I both tried to return thanks to the church in the East that sent us the box and have tried to return thanks unto God every day since.

Hard times have come again and again, but we have trusted in Him, dreading nothing so much as a doubt of His protecting care. Over and over again we have proved that, "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."—*Christian Witness*.

THE BLACKOUT ENDED

(Continued from page 3)

put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Thus we see that His Church is to be filled and flooded with that kind of a life and light that becomes a light unto men. 1 Thess. 5:5, "Ye are the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." Phil. 2:15,16, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life."

Yes, a true Christmas in America would be a Christmas by Americans set apart and dedicated in such a way that whatever was done throughout the day would mean that God would be glorified in the highest. One day of this kind would go far toward relieving the blackout which has been caused by the demoralizing influences of darkness. Each church should set about to arrange and carry out a program. The alpha and omega, or beginning and end of which should be to exhibit the life of Jesus Christ in our ranks. Every minister and layman should so throw open his heart and life and seek the divine presence until every speck of darkness and gloom had been dispersed and the whole inner being had become aglow with the pulsating, animating, uplifting, inspiring life of Jesus. This would go far toward removing the dark spots from our feast day and would accredit the members and ministers and also the Church to the neighbors and community in which we are situated.

Yes, the first Christmas meant that darkness had ended for the faithful. The blackout which had been caused by the

sin and transgression of God's people had ended in a glorious new day because of the obedience of the Son of God. The very life of God itself had come to dwell among men and when we speak of Christ within us, when we testify to having been filled with the Holy Ghost, that means that the very life of God is within us. That being true, there must of necessity be a light there unto men. O Church of the living God, body of Christ, members of His flesh and of His bone, such relationship obligates us to renew our consecration and purge out of our hearts and out of our ranks those things which would hinder our true light from shining as He would have it and as men need it. Girls, boys, women, and men who have come to know Jesus should approach and go through this holiday season in the spirit of Christ. We should put more into it and also get more out of it than we have heretofore. World conditions and our usefulness and influence demand that this would be the Christmas the spirit and behavior of which should be in harmony with the spirit and behavior of those who celebrate the first Christmas in Bethlehem.

For the Church as a whole, also individual members, to fail to do so will be to our discredit and to His grief, and mean that God would receive no glory; while the true spirit of Christmas is that which is done or given, the feasting and pleasures enjoyed, the program rendered, all be to the end that God be glorified in the highest and that the world can see a life for the Church and for each individual which will be a light unto them.

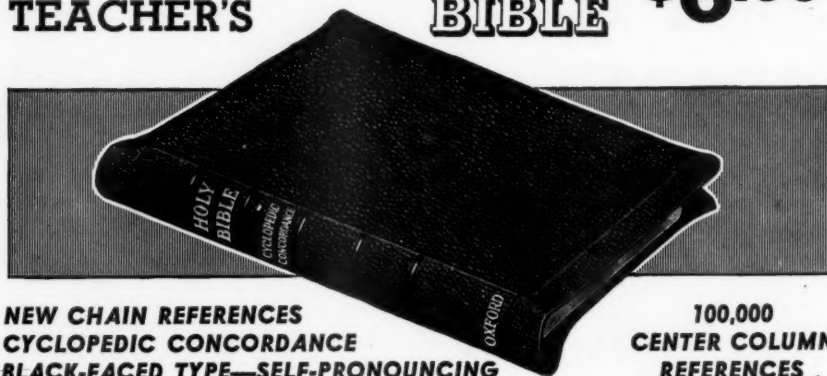
The poet said, "Let my life be a light," and every time this life enters into a man or into a home, the blackout of sin and evil ends. There will be a day when the blackout of evil will end for one thousand years to all people, but until that day shall come may we feel that it is our responsibility and accept it as our duty to see that the Church of God strives for the ideals of Christ and keeps His life within, and by so doing have the blessed assurance that it will never have to endure the terrors of the tribulation's blackout.

I close this message with the prayer that our services and our celebration will be such that others may see and hear and trust in the Lord, and be able to say with us and with John, that darkness is passed and the true light now shineth, which would mean that the blackout has ended in their souls. Amen.

The heart that is full of strife is void of true love for both God and man.

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